

THE RED BANK CATHOLIC “CASEYS”

Red Bank Catholic High School can trace its roots back to 1867, when the pastor of St. James Church founded a school in the basement of the church. We are proud of each chapter in our long and storied history, but none more so than of the story of why we are called the “Caseys.”



Monsignor Joseph T. Casey was born on Christmas Day in 1887, the second of nine children. He received his B.A. from Holy Cross and entered the field of journalism. He entered the seminary and was ordained a priest on May 15, 1913 at St. Patrick’s Cathedral in New York. Four days later he reported to St. James Parish, Red Bank, N.J., his first assignment as curate.

With the outbreak of World War I, Father Casey enlisted in the Navy Chaplain Corps. His tour of duty extended through two World Wars and took him literally all over the globe. In 1946, he retired a monsignor in the rank of Rear Admiral. He returned to the parish that had been his first and only assignment, St. James Parish, Red Bank, N.J.

Casey strongly believed in organized programs for the youth of the community. He immediately hired a full scale coaching staff at Red Bank Catholic for the teams. He breathed life into the Athletic Association. He used his own naval pension to buy uniforms and equipment for our teams. He also organized the school band and orchestra.

A strong advocate of community involvement, Casey founded the Legal Aid Society of Monmouth County. He was on the planning board of the local Red Cross and he sat on the Board of Governors of Monmouth Medical Center, a local hospital.

Well into his eighties, having long since retired from Red Bank Catholic and his subsequent assignments, Monsignor Casey sat on the sidelines during RBC football games. The local papers referred to him as our special good luck charm. Above the front doors to the school, our school motto is etched. “Pro Deo et Patria.” It means for God and country. Monsignor Casey embodied that motto devoting his entire life to God, his country and his beloved Red Bank Catholic.

During our Freshmen Convocation we tell our newest students what a privilege it is for them to be Caseys. We tell them about Monsignor Casey. We remind them that there are Eagles and Colts and Bulldogs in town but we are the “Caseys” and that is special. We honor our namesake every time we take to a field, a court, a track, a pool, wherever we gather. We are Caseys. We are his Caseys and we honor his spirit, his dedication and his service to Red Bank Catholic every time we are referred to as the “Caseys.”

