

NORTH END BOY

INTERVIEW *with* DAVE BOFF, Roselle Catholic Director of Development

What was the genesis of writing the book now, at this time?

I always enjoyed reading and writing and was an English major so it was always something that intrigued me but I guess I finally had the time on my hands to do it so I just started to write.

What role did Roselle Catholic play in your foundation of success especially in your early years?

I always give credit to RC as a place that helped me be who I am today. That foundation of hard work and learning which I also had from my parents is a large factor in ultimately being successful in life.

What do you hope readers learn about Elizabeth (NJ) and St. Benedicts when they read this book?

Well for anyone who remembers 1978 was a very interesting time in NJ and the United States overall. Hopefully the book sheds some light on what was happening during this time period and what people were living through. I hope it shows that Elizabeth was, and to some extent still is, a great city of immigrants who love their neighborhood's and their parishes. I think the old school Elizabeth people will really enjoy the book. Lastly, I hope this book shows the great work that is done at St. Benedicts for the children of that community.

Are there any real-life characters that play a role in the book?

The book shows and talks about more real places than it does real people, like Berry Biscuits and the 7 Wonders of Elizabeth. These were important places to myself and my friends and helped us develop the relationships that we had. As for real life characters the book does include, Father Ed of St Benedicts, Mayor Dunn of Elizabeth and John Riggy a known mob guy in Elizabeth.

You are very generous and philanthropic and what from your background lead you to be that way as an adult?

I guess it would start with my Catholic sensibility of giving to the community. I'm fortunate to have been successful and be in a position to give back and I love giving to the places that need it and more importantly will do great things with those donations. Both Roselle Catholic and St. Benedicts are places like that.

What about 1978 Elizabeth (NJ) helped shape who you are today and who you have been throughout your life?

I think a big part of that is coming from immigrant stock. It was drilled into us early that just being born in the United States or living here was already a win and all you had to do was make the most of it. It was said that if you worked hard and were dedicated you would be successful. It was watching my parents and listening to these lessons that probably had the biggest impact on my life.

Any final thoughts on the book / memoir that you have completed?

I'm very happy with the book and I think it is going to be something nice that I can show my kids and grandkids that this is who I am and this is the stuff and place that helped shape me. Its like a legacy that you leave to them so they know how you grew up and what lead you to become the person they know as their father and grandfather. Maybe in some way it helps them understand who they are and how this shapes them as well.