

Hudson's St. Michael School rededicated

By Jeff Malachowski/Daily News staff
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HUDSON - St. Michael School students, faculty, clergy and alumni gathered yesterday at St. Michael Church to celebrate a rededication Mass as part of ceremonies marking the school's move to the former Hudson Catholic High School building.

The Rev. Ronald Calhoun spoke about the history of the school - which was founded in 1918 by the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur - and touched on memories of alumni who attended both St. Michael School and Hudson Catholic High School.

Hudson Catholic shut down in May because of declining enrollment and a steep budget deficit. Many students, graduates and staff members have expressed disappointment at the school's closing.

"I'm sure there are memories floating around this church today that could speak volumes," Calhoun said.

After being housed on High Street for the past 92 years, St. Michael School, which educates children in kindergarten through eighth grade, moved into the former Hudson Catholic High School building on Main Street over the summer.

With the increased space, St. Michael School now offers new after-school social clubs, additional school and community performances and new classes, including Latin.

"Several of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur and past St. Michael School teachers took a tour of the school (yesterday) where they were treated to songs sung in Latin and special performances by the students," said St. Michael Principal Patricia Delaney.

"The students have been preparing for this day and these special visitors since the beginning of the school year and they were excited to show off all they had learned and practiced. I think the sisters and past faculty were very impressed as well."

The school also dedicated a garden to longtime science teacher Maureen Gorman, who died of cancer in early August.

Delaney described Gorman as "a lover of all living things," and said the garden will serve as a learning tool for the elementary and middle school students.

Both Calhoun and Delaney said the rededication ceremony aimed to honor Hudson Catholic and look to the future of St. Michael School.

"We have to remember our community is not just one school," Delaney said.

"We are rededicating ourselves to the task of Catholic education and the longevity of it to come," Calhoun said.

