The Jew in the Catholic School

Andrew Currier

Grand Valley State University

Follow this and additional works at: http://scholarworks.gvsu.edu/fishladder

Recommended Citation
Available at: http://scholarworks.gvsu.edu/fishladder/vol1/iss1/18

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by ScholarWorks@GVSU. It has been accepted for inclusion in Fishladder: A Student Journal of Art and Writing by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks@GVSU. For more information, please contact scholarworks@gvsu.edu.
The Jew in the Catholic School

ANDREW CURRIER

Shylock – we called the outcast of Holy Spirit
Always present in the pews on the feast day,
But the dogma, the boy refused to obey.
Didn't matter that our God was the same.

And he carried himself with shoulders square
Despite the weight of all our derogatory shame
That was cast in an ignorant and ancestral blame
"You dirty Jew, you don't belong" we'd flare.

Mother did what she could so he'd come play.
Shirt, shoes, pants, belt, tie, hair, all in code.
One could tell a yarmulke was a heavy load
To bear at the cost of the ritual and verbal flay.

Neither the priests nor the nuns could bring to an end
The collective and incessant student body attack
On a slight victim whose continence refused to crack.
The smartly clad Jew would never be allowed to blend.

We forgot Jesus, Mary and Joseph were Jews,
And John Paul II wore a similar small cap
That atop the scourged Jew boy's head sat.
Amazing how the memory is so prone to lose.

Height, weight, and reach don't matter a damn
When you've got the courage of a sacrificial lamb.