

Legacy Project

June 11

Brother James John Bluma, C.S.C.

born: 1 July 1928

died: 11 June 2019



James was born in Green Bay, Wisconsin and attended St. Mary of the Angels Elementary School and Central Catholic High School, graduating in 1946 and immediately joined the U.S. Marine Corps, serving for two years until 1948. He then attended St. Norbert College in De Pere, Wisconsin where he earned a bachelor's degree majoring in economics and accounting in the summer of 1952. He worked for five years as a cost accountant for Kraft Foods. In 1957, he participated in a spiritual retreat with the theme "Come and See What God Has in Mind for You". There he met a Holy Cross Brother who invited him to come and visit Sacred Heart Juniorate in Watertown, Wisconsin. James entered the introductory program and then was sent to St. Joseph's Novitiate in Rolling Prairie, IN where he entered intensive religious training and made his first profession of vows as a Holy Cross Brother in August 16, 1958. He was immediately assigned to join the faculty and teach at St. Joseph's High School in South Bend, IN for the next five years until 1963. He did graduate studies at Loyola University in Chicago the next year and then served as assistant principal at Holy Trinity High School in Chicago, Illinois until 1966. He moved to become assistant principal at Archbishop Hoban High School in Akron, Ohio until 1968. With all his administrative training, he was made the principal for Memorial High School in Evansville, Indiana where he admirably served for fourteen years until 1982 earning a memorable reputation at Reitz Memorial among the faculty, staff and students. After a year of study at the University of Notre Dame, Brother James joined the staff of the business office at Holy Cross College for five years, and in 1988 he was promoted to Vice-President of Student Affairs until 1998. He next served on the staff of the Provincial business office and then enjoyed a well-earned sabbatical from his meritorious and efficient work "behind the scenes". He retired from his many years of service to his beloved Columba Hall to enjoy the activities and attractions at the University of Notre Dame, particularly football and basketball games.

For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayer

--First Peter 3:12

Personally, I'm very happy to be behind the scenes. I like collaboration.

-- Mark Mothersbaugh