

# MIDWEST – MIDWEEK

Brothers of Holy Cross –Midwest Province - P.O. Box 460 – Notre Dame, Indiana 46556-0460

February 3, 2016

## Brother Joseph Herbert Berg, C.S.C.

May 24, 1930 – January 27, 2016

Brother Joseph Berg, C.S.C., age 85, died on January 27, 2016, at Dujarie House in Holy Cross Village at Notre Dame, Indiana. He was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on May 24, 1930, the son of Anthony and Lynn (Lunz) Berg. He attended St. Elizabeth's Elementary and Messmer High School in Milwaukee graduating in 1949. He then attended Marquette University for a year. Joseph believed he had a calling for the religious life and entered the Brothers of Holy Cross at Sacred Heart Juniorate in Watertown, Wisconsin, in March of 1951. He received the habit of the Brothers on August 15, 1951, at St. Joseph's Novitiate, Rolling Prairie, Indiana, and made first profession as a Holy Cross Brother on August 16, 1952. He went to Austin, Texas, to complete his college studies at St. Edward's University earning a Bachelor's degree in 1955.



He received his first assignment at Notre Dame High School in Biloxi, Mississippi, to teach for two years and then spent the next three years at Cathedral High School in Indianapolis. In 1960 he served at St. Charles Boys Home in his hometown of Milwaukee for ten years, first as principal, then assistant director, and in 1963 he became the director of the facility for seven years. He also found time to earn a master's degree at Marquette University in Business Administration. In 1973, because of many contacts he had with charitable organizations, he went to work with the National Conference of Catholic Charities in Washington, D.C., serving there for a total of thirty-five years, first as a staff member, then Secretary, Assistant Director, Associate Director, the Director of Convening Catholic Charities nationwide, and lastly for ten years as the Program Director for Leadership in the Catholic Charities in Alexandria, Virginia. During his many years in the Washington, D.C., area, he lived with the Brothers community of the

Eastern Province. Brother Joseph, like his Brother, Roger, was always an active sportsman competing in a number of sports. But on Labor Day in 1995 while swimming in the Atlantic Ocean surf, he was tossed by a strong wave and suffered a severe spinal injury. He underwent many months of therapy to recuperate from the paralysis and within a year he was back to work at Catholic Charities. He enjoyed his work with many national service organizations, particularly with FEMA's Emergency Food and Shelter Programs. In 2007 Brother Joseph retired from his roles with Catholic Charities and moved back to Notre Dame where he resided and actively participated with the community at Holy Cross Village. Two years ago, he suffered a severe stroke which necessitated that he move to Dujarie House for supervised care. Joe's brother Roger was often at his side to assist and provide help at meals and to be with him on short visits within the Village.

Visitation was held on Monday, February 1, 2016, at Our Lady of Holy Cross Chapel within Schubert Villa/Dujarie House on the grounds of Holy Cross Village at Notre Dame. The Mass of Resurrection followed with interment afterward in St. Joseph's Cemetery of the Village. Kaniewski Funeral Home handled the arrangements.

Memorial contributions, to honor Brother Joseph Berg, C.S.C., and support the mission and ministries of the Brothers may be sent to: Brothers of Holy Cross, Office of Development, P.O. Box 460, Notre Dame, IN 46556.

**Brother Lawrence Stewart**

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## Joe Berg, Eulogy

February 1, 2016



Good morning and thank you all for attending this Holy Cross Memorial Service for Brother Joseph Berg. To his brothers Roger and Dick and his cousin Jack and to all his nieces, nephews, nephews, cousins, and friends I extend our condolences and prayers. Also, I express the sympathy and prayers of all his Brothers in Holy Cross, on behalf of Joe's relatives and friends, I want to say a most sincere "Thank You" to everyone at Dujarie House for their great dedication and many skills in caring for Joe. All of us who were witnesses to this wonderful daily care express our deepest gratitude to each of you. Joe's last years were enriched by your gentle concern and boundless patience. He was not an

easy patient. So we all thank you very much.

Let us remember Joe as he was before his final illness. You all have little cards with a chronology of his life. We can look back at the part of the chronology which each of us shared with Joe. My time of sharing with Joe began in 1993 when we both were residents at Bishop McNamara High School in Forestville, Maryland, which, to use Joe's terminology, "is inside the beltway."

Joe was then at the apex of his 38 year career with the National Catholic Charities Organization. He relaxed by biking, playing tennis, going to the Delaware shore and golfing. But the vast majority of his time was dedicated to working diligently and devotedly at Catholic Charities USA.

Our friendship began as, you might imagine, with golfing together. It took a while to get to know Joe as he was always very intent on doing his best in whatever activity he was engaged. The translation is "he was playing to win." Gradually he started talking about driving a bus at St. Ed's in Austin [another of our common interests], and of his teaching at Biloxi and Indianapolis. And he talked a lot about St. Charles Boys Home where he first encountered Catholic Charities. Only later did he talk extensively about his work at Catholic Charities in D.C. He always had

a half dozen or so projects going at the same time, and he spoke of them in a manner which intermingled the projects. As a result it was quite a while before his multifaceted activities became comprehensible to the listener although Joe had no such difficulty keeping all activities in mind. It was like a juggling act of which he indeed was the master.

Gradually it became clear that the underlying motivation behind all this activity could be summed up in the gospel verse: “Whatever you do for the least of my brethren, that you do unto me.” And being Joe, he always wanted it to be the best.

In 1968 Joe first flew into D.C. National Airport [its old name—which he preferred]. He told the cab driver to take him to Mackin Catholic High School at 14<sup>th</sup> and V Streets. It was shortly after the riots in D.C. and that area of the city had been particularly devastated. The cabbie was very reluctant but Joe insisted. Joe was in D.C. to assist “the least of my brethren.” Catholic Charities was the perfect ministry for Joe with his boundless energy and youthful enthusiasm. He loved his work and absolutely relished the political scene in D.C. As time went on, he soon came to love the city and mastered how it functioned. Joe maintained a frenetic pace and was a genius in knowing the quickest and shortest routes between any two points inside the beltway. Because he did so much at such a frenetic pace, it would be impossible to describe his work other than to say that Joe “always had many irons in the fire” every day.

Each fall on the last day of the annual Catholic Charities convention, Joe would invite me to the closing dinner and to the entertainment by the D.C. group “The Capitol Steps.” It was there that I was able to see Joe in his “natural environment.” He seemed to know everyone at the convention by name and was being thanked for favors done or working on his next big projects.

His work energized him and brought a vitality and dynamism to his work and to all who were involved. Joe also found time to visit and assist local Catholic Charities units all over the country. Helping and empowering “the least of any brethren” was what Joe did best.

All this came to a crashing halt about 4 PM on Labor Day, 1995. Joe was knocked down by a huge wave at the Delaware shore. A life guard held Joe’s head above the water and then he was airlifted to the Salisbury Medical Center. He was paralyzed from the neck down. Brother John Paige was the first to visit. The following Sunday Brother Joe Ruane and I visited him. After an hour or so he said

“You better go now to avoid the traffic on the bay bridge.” But before we left he had us set the TV channel so he could watch the Redskins game as he could not use his fingers. Maybe they were playing the Packers we guessed.

Later he was airlifted to the National Rehabilitation Hospital in D.C. where he stayed for three months. I used to visit him there on Saturdays and watch him do his “Nut and Bolt” therapy. It was good that nuts and bolts did not have ears as they became outlets for his frustration. But by sheer will power and hard work he regained feeling and motion.

After ninety days his insurance coverage expired. He had promised himself that he would walk out of the rehab hospital. He achieved his goal. When he was leaving the hospital, Joe declined to sit in the wheelchair which the staff very much wanted him to use. After all, if he fell and broke a bone or had some other difficulty, all the rehab could be rendered useless. But Joe was adamant about walking out. With great effort he walked to the car. He continued hydrotherapy at Prince George’s Community College and returned to Catholic Charities on a part time basis.

One Saturday afternoon in May he said, “Let’s go to the driving range.” The first day was really tough but he stayed with it. Then one day in August he said, “Let’s go to Henson Creek.” [It is a nine-hole public golf course.] Again the first few outings were difficult. But with his characteristic determination he kept working and his game slowly improved. His determination and will power were awesome.

These same qualities which made him so successful at Catholic Charities now enabled him to overcome his disability. I never remember his being discouraged or feeling sorry for him. What I remember is how determined he was to overcome his handicaps. As time went on, I was in awe at this recovery and all the hard work that was required.

There was only one time I can remember his being discouraged and “down in the dumps.” Amazingly it had nothing to do with his injuries. Joe came home from work late one evening in either 2002 or 2003. We started to talk in our community room. He said, “They just gutted F.E.M.A. today.” And he jumped from detail to detail so fast that I had a difficult time keeping up, much less comprehending. He talked for a long time and I just listened.

In 2005 I was at Sangre De Cristo renewal center in Santa Fe and Katrina had just devastated New Orleans. The more I learned about Katrina the more I remembered what Joe had said about “gutting” F.E.M.A. That was when I realized how the

words “Whatever you do for the least of my brethren that you do unto me” were really Joe’s mantra.

In my years in Holy Cross I have had the happy honor of living with two giants of the Midwest Province: five years in Rome with Brother Bernie Klim, the mystic and seeker, and twelve years in Washington, D.C., with Brother Joe Berg, the activist and doer. When you remember Joe, please recall what he did and why he did it and how he did it. Canonization will not happen but perhaps sainthood already has.

Let me close by again thanking everyone at Dujarie. May God continue to bless you present this morning as we say “Farewell” to Joe. May he rest in peace.

**Brother Francis Ellis**

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## Shared Remembrances of Brother Joseph Berg

These messages were shared with me / us by Jane Stenson who works for CCUSA (Catholic Charities USA) and worked alongside Brother Joseph Berg for 30 years. She attended the funeral mass here and wanted us to see what two co-workers, Gregory Kepferle and Kristan Schlichte, MS, wrote about Brother Joseph's impact at CCUSA.

### **Brother Roy Smith**

Words fail. Brother Joseph led the way for so many of us with his vision of compassionate justice, as he advocated to help those who suffered from hunger, homelessness, unemployment, poverty and exclusion. His vision and leadership of the FEMA/EFSP board was brilliant. His legacy is in the millions of people over the years who received food and shelter because of his advocacy. I am so grateful to have known him and hope that we can continue his legacy.

Gregory Kepferle

Catholic Charities of Santa Clara  
County, San Jose CA

I received a call this afternoon from Brother Roger Berg letting us know that his brother, Brother Joseph Berg, passed away yesterday at Holy Cross Village in Notre Dame, IN. Brother Joe had a long career here at the National Office where he was responsible for Leadership Development, Annual Gatherings and Government Affairs, among other things. Brother Joe helped found the National FEMA Board now known as the EFSP Board and the National VOAD. He was passionate about the poor and politics.

Kristan Schlichte, MS

Catholic Charities USA, Senior Director of  
Membership, Alexandria, VA

## Brother Carroll Everett Posey, C.S.C.

August 19, 1936 – January 31, 2016

*Brother Carroll Everett Posey, C.S.C.*, age 79, died on January 31, 2016, in his room at Columba Hall, at the University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Indiana. He was born in Liberty, Kentucky, on August 19, 1936, the son of Vitus and Helen (Wethington) Posey. He attended St. Bernard Elementary and High School in Clementsville, Kentucky, graduating in 1955. He then began studies at Brescia College in Owensboro where he graduated with a bachelor's degree in education in 1959. He taught at St. Stephen Cathedral grade school in Owensboro for two years. In the summer of 1961, he followed a calling to join the Brothers of Holy Cross and journeyed to Sacred Heart Juniorate in Watertown, Wisconsin, to begin the process. In August, 1961, he went to St. Joseph's Novitiate in Rolling Prairie, Indiana, for his religious training and professed his vows on August 16, 1962.



Since Carroll already had his B.A. degree, he received his first assignment to teach at St. Joseph's High School in South Bend for two years. In 1964 he joined the faculty to teach at Holy Trinity High in Chicago. In 1966 he became the commandant of Sacred Heart Military Academy in Watertown where he served for two years until the Academy was transferred (in 1968) to Rolling Prairie, Indiana, and its name changed to Le Mans Academy (the former St. Joseph's Novitiate) where Carroll taught until 1971. His next assignment was to return to his home state of Kentucky and join the Brothers' first faculty at Bishop David High School in Louisville where he taught and was baseball coach from 1971-1987. He then returned to Rolling Prairie to again teach at Le Mans Academy for two years. Following a spiritual renewal program, he acted as assistant director of Dujarie House infirmary and also continued on the staff for five years. He worked at St. Joseph Care Center in South Bend for three years while living at the Brothers Center and later serving on the staff at Columba Hall at Notre Dame.

After an extended period of spiritual renewal, Brother Carroll returned to live with his Brothers in community at Bessette House and Columba Hall. Carroll endured the effects of Parkinson's Disease and was lovingly cared for by the community's



wellness team and nursing staff while he continued to live and participate with his religious community on the campus of Notre Dame that he loved so much. May he now rest in eternal peace.

Visitation will be held on February 5th, 2016, at St. Joseph's Chapel, Holy Cross College, from 9:30 to 11:00 AM, at Notre Dame. The Mass of Resurrection will follow with interment afterward in St. Joseph's Cemetery of the Village. Kaniewski Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

Memorial contributions, to honor Brother Carroll Posey, C.S.C., and support the mission and ministries of the Brothers may be sent to: Brothers of Holy Cross, Office of Development, P.O. Box 460, Notre Dame, IN 46556.

### **Brother Lawrence Stewart**

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## **Lenten Lecture Series – 2016** **Wednesday Evenings: 7-8 PM** **Geenan Hall**

First Lecture: February 10  
Brother Raymond Papenfuss, CSC

*To Live a Life of Love as Jesus Did*  
*A Practical Approach*



## Reflection

*Rise above the storm and  
you will find the sunshine.*

*Mario Fernandez*



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## Seven Cathedral Staff Commissioned Holy Cross Associates

**INDIANAPOLIS—January 27, 2016**—Dave Worland, principal, announces that seven Cathedral High School faculty and staff were commissioned Holy Cross Associates during an all-school mass for the feast day of Holy Cross founder Blessed Basil Moreau. Brother Carl Sternberg, assistant director of the Midwest Holy Cross Associates, was on hand to commission. Holy Cross Brother Roy Smith, Cathedral class of 1961, also was in attendance for the ceremony. The mass was celebrated by Fr. Eric Augenstein, director of vocations for the Archdiocese of Indianapolis and Cathedral grad class of 1996, along with Cathedral chaplain Fr. John Zahn.

The seven individuals have spent the previous year studying the Holy Cross Constitutions and during the mass took a pledge to make a one-year commitment to “strive for growth in my spiritual life, to participate in the building of community according to the traditions of Holy Cross, especially with my brother and sister associates, and to continue to offer and seek support in ministering to the people of God as a Holy Cross Associate.” Those named Holy Cross Associates include Anthony Ernst, world history teacher and director of student activities; Charlene Witka, director of campus ministry; Sherry Kaminskas, assistant to campus minister; Katie Lewis, theology teacher; Sara Koehler, theology teacher; Jennifer Hollis, math teacher; and Kathy Saum, vice principal for student conduct.



Pictured left to right: Anthony Ernst, Br. Carl Sternberg, Charlene Witka, Sherry Kaminskas, Katie Lewis, Sara Koehler, Jennifer Hollis, Kathy Saum, and Br. Roy Smith.



 Cathedral

FILM STUDENTS PARTNER WITH THE BECK CENTER  
ON *RAZZLE DAZZLE* DOCUMENTARY

Father Basil Moreau, founder of the Congregation of Holy Cross, wrote, "Knowledge itself does not bring about positive values, but positive values do influence knowledge and put it to a good use" (*Christian Education*). In this vein, the St. Edward faculty and staff strive to connect the knowledge developed through the curriculum to how this knowledge can better serve the larger community.

This week, juniors enrolled in the St. Edward High School IB Film course began shooting a short documentary centered around *Razzle Dazzle*, the Beck Center's annual spring performance, presented in partnership with the Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities, by volunteers and actors with special needs. St. Edward juniors will document the entire experience from the casting process, to rehearsal, to the performance itself. The project will not only provide our students with the opportunity to put the film curriculum to work in a very real way, it allows our students to share in the great work of our neighbors, The Beck Center.



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