

MIDWEST – MIDWEEK

Brothers of Holy Cross – Midwest Province - P.O. Box 460 – Notre Dame, Indiana 46556-0460
October 4, 2017

Eulogy for Brother Richard B. Gilman, C.S.C.

By: Brother Joe McTaggart, C.S.C. --- October 2, 2017

My name is Br. Joe McTaggart, and I have the privilege this morning to offer some words of remembrance, honor, and gratitude for the life of Brother Richard Gilman.

We thank you for having come this morning to pray with us and celebrate Richard's return to his God. Richard served that God his whole life. And he did so faithfully in fulfilling his vows in service to his Lord and the People of God in all that he did. That is what we celebrate today—that life lived well in faith and simplicity.

Special welcome to his family especially, and to this community: the Brothers, his friends, professional colleagues, former and current students, residents of the Village, Robyn Westler, our Province Nurse, and the nurses and staff at Dujarie. A warm welcome to all of you.



Eulogy's basic definition is—a “good word.” But a eulogy can be a daunting task—especially when trying to fashion or appropriate accolades and praise. How can anyone say enough, really? Who can capture another's life in one brief reflection?

But perhaps that is really not the task if one knew Richard well.

His own words, as scripture says, were always “yes, yes, no, no”—simple and to the point, straightforward and concise. And in that succinct way of his, with Richard's incredible insight and ability to articulate his thoughts or express a strongly held position—there was no bombast, no inflation. He spoke his mind, directly, kindly, and often with his dry sense of humor and comedic wit. Yet he was never sarcastic or biting and always spoke with brevity, often with a clever turn of phrase.

As daunting as this remembrance might be though, I hope to keep it simple.

The good Democrat that he was, spurred on by his mother, a petite, remarkably strong, and influential woman, and a father whom he always admired and emulated—these were his loadstar, his bedrock and initial formation.

Still, in these moments now and those we share later with one another at the reception, we can take our clue from Ted Kennedy at the funeral of his own brother, Robert. “My brother, he said, need not be idealized or enlarged in death beyond what he was in life, to be remembered simply as a good and decent man.” ... And so too with our brother, Richard.

Above all, with all his considerable talent and skill, giftedness and breadth of commitment, Richard Gilman was at the core—plain, simple, talented—“a good and decent man.”

Some corresponding evidence...

RICHARD WAS MY FRIEND. We were classmates at St. Ed’s in Cleveland. We were together in a class of about 400 students. No, I was not in his class, another kind of class—he was bright, very bright, and insightful. Still, Richard was never pompous and never full of himself. He was just Richard. No pretense, no excess.

RICHARD WAS CREATIVE. Akron, Africa, Holy Cross College—those three were the main focus in his leadership role and his creativity. Akron—with his love of its community and secondary education.

Africa—which he always reminded and instructed us was our kith and kin. And the College—a particularly creative and incredible legacy. Just look at his accomplishments in the growth and furtherance of its mission. His commitment to its students and the breadth of vision for their learning was always at the core. His educational vision was like himself, focused and purposeful—good, hard, effective work infused with targeted creativity. Example—when my friend and colleague in ministry Jane Pitz approached him with a request to commit to the Iraqi Student Project giving education and support to those poor students longing for freedom, growth, and education, he did not hesitate for one minute and immediately committed the school to the task. He did not build walls—neither in the Holy Cross educational tradition nor in the justice of the gospel.

RICHARD WAS TALENTED. And well rounded—a Renaissance man of sorts. He knew and loved opera listening every Saturday on the radio. He knew football, sports, politics, the cutting edge of educational improvements. He was an outdoorsman, a cook, a lover of flowers and art, loved hiking with friends. And he read and researched consistently staying current in all those fields, even the terrain of his hiking.

RICHARD WAS A LEADER. His community and the Society of Brothers will dearly miss his contributions to the Congregation’s General Chapters and its work. Our province, too, will miss his insights and solid assessments on the Provincial Council. His absence and representation on the board of his beloved St. Edward’s University will be sorely missed as well.

RICHARD WAS BRIGHT. In the Scholasticate I would marvel at his goofing off and wasting all kinds of time but still somehow hitting the books and coming off with accolades. I often wondered how much he really had to study or what came to him natively. Brother Romard Barthel saw his potential and skill early on and mentored it. Right out of the Scholasticate Richard went on to Harvard. Then when Tom Moser saw growing needs in the College, he sent Richard on for his PhD at Dayton, again in education, Richard’s main and singular love.

RICHARD WAS FAITHFUL. Above all he was very much a man of faith. He was a quiet man, a private man whose faith and personal spirituality was never worn on his sleeve. Opera spoke to him as much as religious classics, maybe more. Science took him to God. And most importantly in the challenges of the ups and downs of any human failure or frailty, he knew people did their best and did not judge or distance himself from them but supported and remained consistent to their growth where it counted most. One brief and telling example of his kindness and compassion came from his former student and dear friend, Mark Peterson, who said in his own years as a youth and later as an adult, he never heard Richard say a bad or unkind word about anyone. I attest to that myself. With his insight and sharp instincts Richard could critique results but never the person involved. Unconscious humility ruled his life. In fact, to steal a phrase from another, Richard was an “exemplar of modesty”.

Enough... with the accolades! Richard would be very uncomfortable with all this praising and carrying on.

Our Brother too, then, “need not be idealized or enlarged in death beyond what he was in life, to be remembered simply as ‘a good and decent man.’ ”

Richard—our chins quiver too, our eyes cloud up with tears as well when we contemplate your loss and realize your talent and skill no longer serve us.

Richard’s death came quickly in a sense—but in looking back, one was not unaware something serious was going on. It was ominous and sobering, yet the clues were there.

I think he yielded to the inevitable, the closing down of his physical body and the conscious giving over of himself to his Lord and Master whom he served so faithfully and without show these many years.

To draw to the end in this attempt, then, I’ve always remembered the comment from the great mystic and teacher, Meister Eckhart: If there is only one prayer you say in your entire life—if that prayer is “thank you”...that will be sufficient.

Interestingly enough, in my last words to Richard on that Saturday night as I left his room, privileged opportunity that it was for me, while putting my hand on his head and touching him with affection, love, and my own anticipation of his loss, I said simply —“God bless you, Richard.”

He rallied as much as his frail body would permit. With eyes still closed, energy failing fast, in a quiet and thin voice he said—simply and kindly—“thank you.”

Like Richard, then, perhaps that is all we should say too—“thank you.” In the final analysis, that says it all.

Thank you, Richard Baker Gilman.

Thank you for everything.

Another Journey Comes to an End Legacy of Brother Richard Gilman, C.S.C.

Brian Regan – Trustee

Published on Sep 25, 2017

A presidential farewell to celebrate the legacy of Brother Richard Gilman, C.S.C., on the event of his retirement, October 7, 2010.

YouTube

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Oz29dE56jOo&feature=em-subst_digest

Reflection



**“Those who
are not
grateful
soon begin to
complain of
everything.”**

— Thomas Merton,
Thoughts in Solitude

This reflection is courtesy of Mission, Ethics & Spirituality Office
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Saint Edward High School

From: St. Edward High School: Best of the Week - September 25 - September 29, 2017



PEOPLE OF THE WEEK

FERNANDA GOLDBERG & S.A.L.S.A.

Hurricanes Irma and Maria have left Puerto Rico in a devastated state. With no power, a lack of resources and limited communication, the people of Puerto Rico are in dire need for help and support in recovering from these natural disasters.

This week, St. Ed's Spanish and Latino Student Association (S.A.L.S.A.) and their moderator, Mrs. Fernanda Goldberg, hosted a bake sale fundraiser during community period to help Puerto Rico. Offering tasty treats and authentic Puerto Rican foods, such as empanadas and tamales, the bake sale was a huge success.

Although the bake sale was only intended to run Sept. 26-28, Mrs. Goldberg, originally from Puerto Rico and who still has family and friends living there, will continue the bake sale throughout next week in response to the countless donations already made in three short days.

In the first day alone, the bake sale raised over \$700 due to the generous contributions made by St. Ed's students, faculty, and staff. The money raised by the end of next week will be sent directly to the people of Puerto Rico so that they will receive the aid and resources they need.

Mrs. Goldberg and the students of S.A.L.S.A. urge everyone to continue their efforts by visiting unidosporpuertorico.com to make a donation and to learn more about how to send relief to the millions of people affected in Puerto Rico.

	<p>Cartoon By Brother James Kane, CSC</p>
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