

# MIDWEST – MIDWEEK

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

July 22, 2015

## Brother Charles Peter McBride, C.S.C.

*December 25, 1938 – July 14, 2015*

### Obituary



Brother Charles Peter McBride, C.S.C., age 76, died on July 14, 2015 at Columba Hall, Notre Dame, Indiana. He was born in Chicago, Illinois, on December 25, 1938, the son of Peter and Phyllis (Van Duerm) McBride. He attended St. Timothy Elementary School, and for a year Holy Trinity High School, and then went to Sacred Heart College in Watertown, Wisconsin, to complete his high school courses and graduated in 1956.

After the preparatory program at Watertown, he went to St. Joseph's Novitiate in Rolling Prairie, Indiana, in January, 1957, for a year of religious training. He pronounced his first vows as a Brother of Holy Cross on January 26, 1958.

Charles began his studies at St. Edward's University in Austin, Texas. then was assigned to join the faculty at Boyssville of Michigan in Clinton in the fall of 1959 where he served for two years. In the fall of 1961 he joined the faculty at Archbishop Hoban High in Akron, where he served for four years. By returning to St. Edward's University in summer sessions, he was able to finish his Bachelor of Arts degree and graduate in 1965. He joined the faculty in at Holy Cross High School in River Grove, Illinois, where he served for ten years teaching U.S. history and communication courses. At this time he augmented his courses with a long-time hobby and career in photo-journalism and public relations. He also used summer school sessions to earn a Master's Degree at Ball State University in the early 1970s. In 1975, Charles moved to the University of Notre Dame to serve as Assistant Rector of Morrissey Hall and continue what came to be his more than 40 years as an ace photographer for the Sports Information Office of the University, where he worked the sidelines of Notre Dame football, basketball, and hockey

games. In 1976 he returned to teach for four years at Holy Cross High in River Grove. In 1980 he joined a group of Holy Cross Brothers who worked in youth ministry for the archdiocese of Anchorage, Alaska. The next year Charles accepted the position as Director of Communications for the archdiocese, a role he developed for many years. He was most proud of directing an ecumenical religious cable television channel in Anchorage for a total of 22 years.

In 2004, he returned to the 'lower 48 states' to serve for a year in the Province Development Office. Then in 2005 he became the Director of Communications for the Midwest Province, a position he faithfully held until this year. Charles' major contribution to the office was to develop and edit the weekly province newsletter (dubbed by Brother Philip Armstrong, "*Midwest/Midweek*") which provides news and information for the whole congregation.

The original "province photographer" was Brother Martinus Bombardier, a person who served the South Bend and Notre Dame community for many years photographing groups and weddings. Brother Charles succeeded Martinus in the role and used his modern digital cameras to rapidly take and print literally thousands of thumbprint proofs of individuals, sporting events, groups, province celebrations, and scenic views. His photos of Notre Dame sporting events have appeared on CBS, NBC, and Fox television networks, in newspapers, as well as in *Sports Illustrated* magazine. His iconic and unique photograph of Austin Carr dunking a basketball while Charles was lying under the basket received high commendation and an award.

Besides photography, Charles' hobbies included fishing, gardening, and collecting art. He enjoyed giving tours in Alaska for community members and guests who visited. His fishing trips with his "Watertown classmate" Brother Charles Drevon and former Brother William Dusseau were an annual competition for a prized "Fish Trophy."

Charles endured three open-heart operations to repair a defective valve. His recovery after the most recent operation was slow and necessitated a stay in Dujarie House. He did recover and moved to Columba Hall where he used a motorized wheelchair to buzz around the hallways, chapel, and dining room. He'd often use his "vehicle" to take trips around the Notre Dame campus with his trusty Nikon to take pictures of favorite places. Those photos will be added to other pictures which this tireless photographer has already contributed to Province Archives ...

Visitation was held on Monday, July 20, at St. Joseph Chapel, Holy Cross College, from 9:30 to 11:00 AM. The Mass of Resurrection followed with interment afterward in St. Joseph's Cemetery of the Village. Kaniewski Funeral Home handled the arrangements.

Memorial contributions, in honor of Brother Charles McBride, C.S.C., to 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.

**Br. Lawrence Stewart**



## Brother Charles McBride, CSC

1938 – 2015

### Eulogy



To know Charles McBride was to know a one-of-a-kind person. The words, “good humor,” “high energy,” and “bluster” all come to mind. Most of us knew him as a talented sports photographer and intense fisherman. Some of us have known him since Watertown, where he arrived as a talkative and effervescent young man in 1954, after doing his freshman year at Holy Trinity High School in Chicago. On more than one occasion, Charles has said, “After Watertown, it was all downhill.” Remembering his two and a half years as a postulant in Wisconsin, Charles once told of his being asked by old Brother Lambert to help get rid of some pesky blackbirds nesting in a copse of pine trees in the front yard. Lambert made young Charles shake the trees so the baby birds would drop to the ground where hefty Lambert smashed each one under his sizable foot. Shocked, young Charles screamed, “What are you doing?” And Lambert replied, “They’re eating our corn.” So much for gentle times at Watertown! When Charlie and his good friend Charles Drevon went to the novitiate from Watertown, they would be the last of the Watertown high school students.

If anything, Charles was a persistent warrior. It took him years of summer school to complete his bachelor’s degree because he was sent out degree-less to work at Boysville, our child-care facility in Michigan. He completed that degree at St. Edward’s University in 1965 and later earned a master’s degree from Ball State University. He subsequently taught at Hoban High in Akron and Holy Cross High in River Grove, Illinois. He was a natural in the classroom, first as a US history teacher, then eventually as a Communications teacher. Communications—the love of his life! And even if “communications” meant to him that you would listen as Charles talked, he was never a boring conversationalist. It was hard to say “no” to Charles McBride. He made few requests, but the requests he made were well thought out and, we must say, persistent.

Gradually Charles moved into photography and public relations work. For twenty-five years he served in Anchorage, Alaska, from 1979 to 2004, most of those years as Director of Communications for the archdiocese. Photography

seemed to be in his bloodstream: as far back as 1954 he was already taking pictures, driven by the desire to freeze time in photos. He worked his craft up from hobby to full-time employment, his equipment gradually becoming more and more state-of-the-art.

For forty years Charles served as an adjunct photographer for the University of Notre Dame's sports programs. He could be seen working the sidelines of football games. His photos were lively and creative, often used by Notre Dame in TV spots on the major TV channels. In the office space Brother Richard Johnson shared with Charles, Charles and Sister Ruth Nickerson would often meet and have an exuberant discussion about sports. Her sprightly personality always lifted Charlie's spirits.

As far as playing sports, Charlie did not have the best coordination. But that did not stop him from being an enthusiastic player. Brother Richard Johnson ended up at a doctor's office after being kicked by Charlie who went after a ball in a soccer game. Tough as he was, he had, however, a soft side: when Richard broke his arm a few years ago, Charlie was there faithfully at the Columba Hall front door to take him to work and back home in all types of weather.

His photos were never about Charles—he worked to make his photos artifacts of people and groups. Not only was he respected for his sports photography, but he captured for the Midwest Province group photos at provincial chapters and gatherings. From atop a step ladder, he would direct Brothers to move here and there until he was satisfied that no one's face would be missing from the finished product. Even in a group of one hundred, a Brother felt special when Charles was taking an official photo.

Now a word about Charles' secondary hobby—fishing. He loved annual treks with Charles Drevon and William Dusseau to various fishing spots, often in off-shore waters where he snagged super-large halibut. In his retirement at Columba Hall he proudly displayed the tails of two of these monstrous fish—mounted as trophies that only a sportsman could appreciate.

Charles was also an excellent cook - to judge by the pots and kitchen gadgets he brought with him into Columba Hall. As well as a collection of 300 coffee mugs! One of his culinary treasures is framed—five blue ribbons from the Alaska State Fair for his homemade corn relish. He won year after year, from 1996 to 2000, for the same recipe. Who would have guessed? He did have a soft side. Charlie had a

dog named Lily that brought out the best in him: when they were together, Charlie was as contented as could be. He had a changed personality at those times.

His last great enterprise was the on-line journal *Midwest-Midweek*, which demanded his creative handling week after week. A year-round publication, *Midwest-Midweek* needed weekly stories about the Brothers around the Province and their schools. His photographs for each story were chosen carefully for both their composition and their human interest. As editor, he had to shepherd each story from inception to completion and bring enough variety to the journal to hold a reader's attention. Charles would often reject publishing suggestions from others, but he would generally come back and say "go ahead" with the suggestion, sometimes within fifteen minutes, sometimes within a day.

Seeing Charles go is seeing a unique part of Holy Cross go. He was special. He was Loyal to Holy Cross, a creative worker in our high schools and in the Anchorage archdiocese, a man of evident faith. Our gatherings will miss him. By the way those two halibut trophies are looking for a new home—along with a rack of gigantic moose antlers.

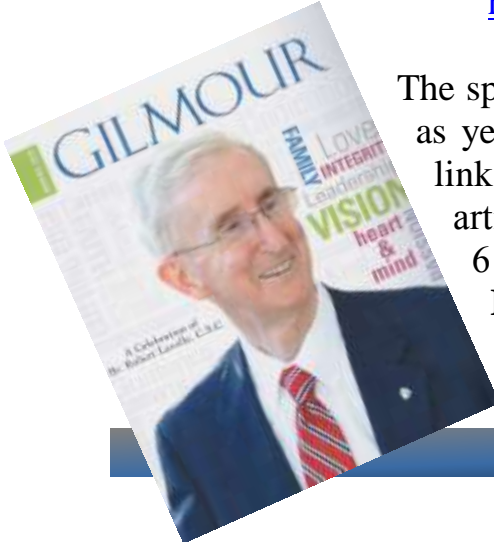
### **Br. George Klawitter**



## 35 Years as Head of School “A Celebration of Br. Robert Lavelle, C.S.C.”

Publications for Gilmour Academy can be found at the following link:

<http://www.gilmour.org/page.cfm?p=1069>



The spring 2015 edition of the magazine *GILMOUR* has not as yet been posted to the list of publications at the above link. Hopefully a printed copy can be located. Two articles, “How Brother Robert Has Inspired Me” – page 6 and “A Lifelong Mission” – page 8, feature **Brother Robert Lavelle** and how his leadership has affected those around him and the building of Gilmour’s reputation.

Following are excerpts from the magazine, *Gilmour* - SPRING 2015:

– **Jay Fowler '00**, Lower School social studies instructor

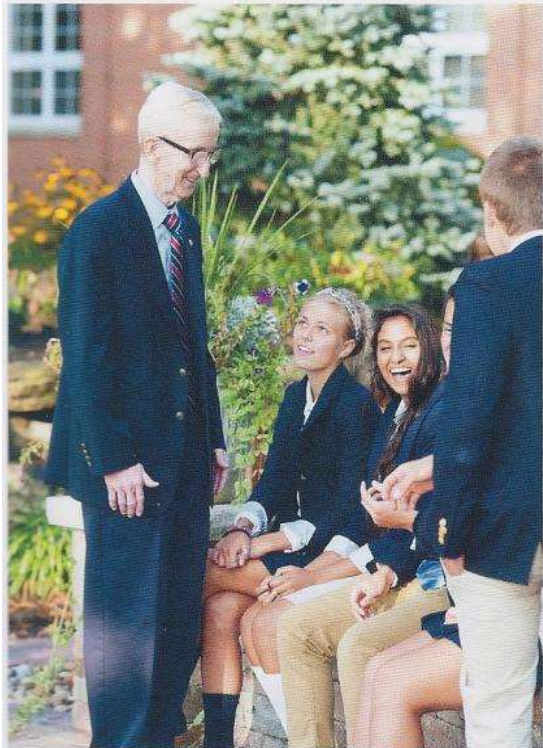
"Br. Robert's enthusiasm for the job teachers do is definitely contagious. His example leads one to want continuously to improve the experience that our students have here on campus. The trust that Br. Robert places in me makes teaching here different from teaching elsewhere. It is empowering."

– **Whitney Daly**, Upper School religion instructor

"Not or in my 25 years in independent schools have I met a man with more hope, compassion, integrity, kindness, or openness than Br. Robert. He is the reason I came to Gilmour."

## *55 years of inspiration*

As another school year comes to a close, so, too, does Br. Robert Lavelle's tenure as Head of School at Gilmour. During his 35 years at the helm, Br. Robert has inspired tremendous growth, both for the Academy and for the thousands of students who were lucky enough to experience his leadership and compassion.



As you will read inside, Gilmour's campus has been transformed under Br. Robert's watch and now rivals the campuses of many small colleges. But, it has been what has transpired *within* the beautiful facilities across campus that will truly be Br. Robert's legacy. It has been in the Lower, Middle and Upper School classrooms and labs; in the theater; on the athletic fields; in the chapel; and in the hallways that students have learned to live out the Gilmour/Holy Cross mission. This is where they have developed the competence to identify a problem and where they have cultivated the courage to do something about it. This is where they have grown to understand the

responsibility they have to leave the world better than they found it.

And there has been no better role model for our students than Br. Robert — a leader who lives his life each day, guided by his own dedication to the Holy Cross charisms, to make the world more humane and just and to inspire the young people around him to do the same.

(Magazine *Gilmour* - SPRING 2015, page 2)



## Br. James Everett, C.S.C.

The Summer 2015 edition of the *St. Edward Magazine* features Br. James Everett, C.S.C. In honor of Br. James is a four page article, *Living the Charism*. Below is an excerpt from the article.



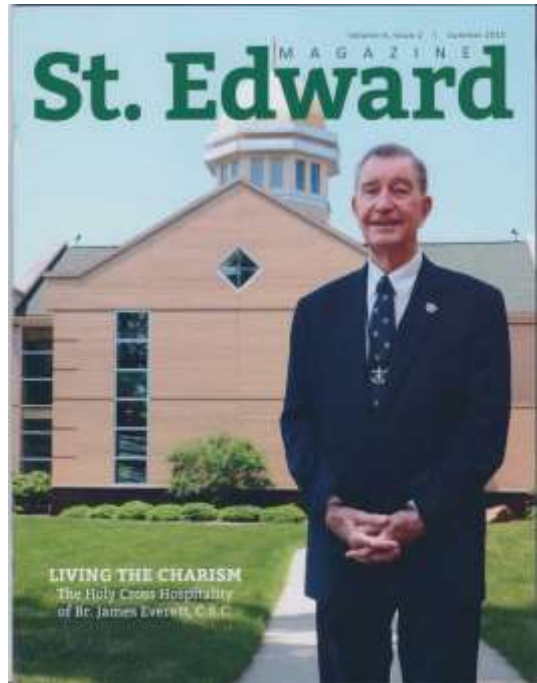
### **Living the Charism The Holy Cross Hospitality of Br. James Everett, C.S.C.**

"And a warm, Holy Cross welcome to all of you!"

If you've ever had the pleasure to attend an event where Br. James Everett, C.S.C. has offered the invocation, opening prayer, or grace before meal, you've heard that line. The simple expression not only reflects the Holy Cross charism, it sums up the life and vocation of Br. James.

Since 1977 (save a two-year sabbatical in the late 90s), Br. James has been welcoming students at the front door to begin each school year, tending to our well-manicured grounds, committing himself in service to the swimming and diving team, delivering daily reminders to students managing a rigorous curriculum with the challenge of ADHD, and reminding freshmen to tuck in their shirts, slowdown in the hallway, and stay off the lawn. His life's work is the example of what we want every young man to take away from St. Edward High School. He is our model for Christ-like servant leadership.

Br. James is a product of Holy Cross. From birth, the Congregation of Holy Cross has played an integral role in his formation. He was born at St. Joseph's Hospital in South Bend, Indiana, which is operated by the Sisters of the Holy Cross. He was baptized at St. Patrick's Parish in South Bend where his paternal grandfather was the parish sexton for 35 years and rang the church bell three times a day, every day. Br. James attended grade school at St. Patrick's and was taught by the Sisters of Holy Cross.





When he was an elementary school student, Br. James' family moved to Roseland, Indiana, where he attended Christ the King, operated by Holy Cross priests. From there, he chose to attend Central Catholic High School.

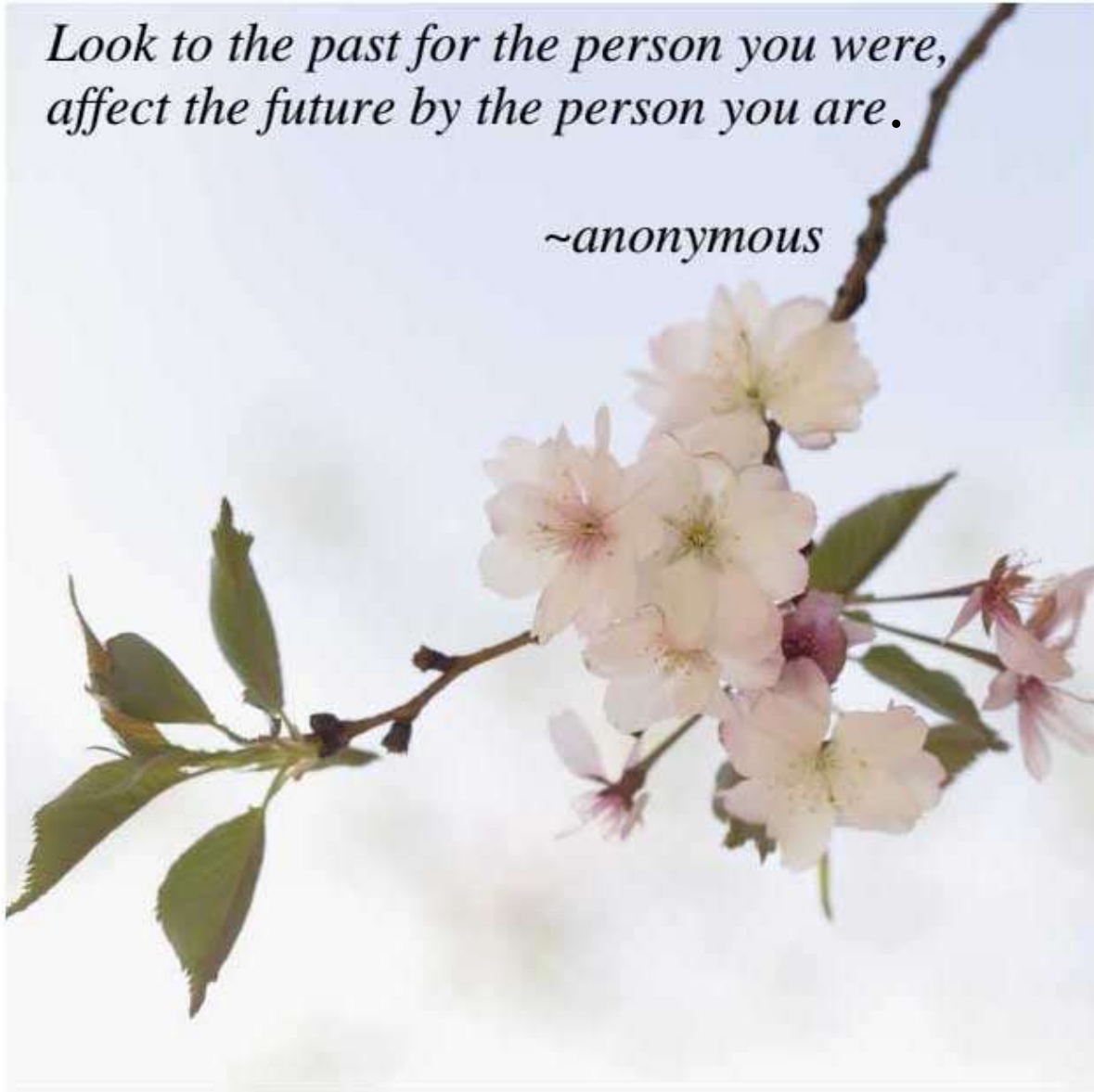
"The war had just ended," he said. "I can remember V-E Day very well. I could hear the bells in South Bend ringing and as kids we were marching up and down the street, happy that the war was over." ...



## Weekly Reflection

*Look to the past for the person you were,  
affect the future by the person you are.*

*~anonymous*



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## Past Copies of Midwest-Midweek

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<http://www.brothersofholycross.com/midmid.htm>



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Please have material to **Br. Richard Johnson** by Thursday the week before *Midwest-Midweek* is published.

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