

# MIDWEST – MIDWEEK

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

May 24, 2017

## Brother James Joseph Kumba, C.S.C. March 31, 1928 – May 17, 2017

Brother James Joseph Kumba, C.S.C., age 89, died on May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017, at Dujarie House in Holy Cross Village at Notre Dame, Indiana. He was born in Beaver Dam, Wisconsin, on March 31, 1928, the son of Joseph and Helen (Kerwitzer) Kumba. He attended St. Peter Elementary School and Beaver Dam High School, graduating in 1947. He went to work for his uncle in his Plumbing Company and studied to become a skilled and certified professional plumber and served as Secretary for the Plumbers Local Union. He was active with the Knights of Columbus in his parish and President of the Holy Name Society. He went on a retreat with his Dad, which must have inspired him to “check out” the life of a Brother. He had been a skilled plumber for 10 years before he contacted the Holy Cross Brothers who were in nearby Watertown.



At the age of 28, he decided to enter the introductory program at Sacred Heart Juniorate. His schedule there included classes, prayer, and work periods. Since he was a professional plumber, his work assignment was to run a new hot water line from the boiler room to the laundry room. After three months at Watertown, he went to the novitiate in Rolling Prairie and pronounced his first vows on January 26, 1960. He was assigned to the staff at Dujarie Hall where he again performed his plumbing talents, by running hot water lines to all the sinks within private rooms. In 1961 he was assigned to St. Edward High School in Lakewood, Ohio, where for 11 years he was responsible for supervising the school boilers and heating and cooling systems. He organized an efficient crew of students who thoroughly cleaned classrooms each day. In 1972 he joined the staff at Boysville in Michigan. James had suffered a back injury but enjoyed a routine of directing students in beautifying the campus with flower beds and manicured lawns. He also worked in the dormitories looking after students.

In 1979, he joined the staff at a half-way house in Detroit to oversee students as they moved into new careers. In 1980 he took over the maintenance position at Gilmour Academy looking after facilities for any needed repairs and upkeep. It was there that he became interested in the charismatic prayer movement and joined with Brother Richard Keller to assist Richard in his work in parish ministry.

In 1982, Brother James got in touch with a fellow-charismatic disciple, Brother Paul Rosonke, who stimulated his interest into joining their community of Brothers who were helping a parish, St. Joseph Church, on a reservation in Cherry Creek, South Dakota. His talents were used in yard work, cooking, and teaching religious education to grade school students. He visited families in the evenings to encourage involvement in Christian ministry. Through efforts, two men became permanent deacons and several women helped the Sisters in religious education.

He returned to Notre Dame in 1984 to join the staff at the Holy Cross Brothers Center and assisted Brother Richard Weber with the maintenance responsibilities. A year later, he took on the responsibility of keeping the campus grounds neat and trim after Brother John Harrington retired. He continued to assist Brother Richard at the Village while he resided at Columba Hall in 2001. His vocation of helping others continued when he joined the Brothers' crew who weekly prepared and served meals at St. Augustine Parish's soup kitchen. His generosity and helpfulness in any endeavor was a perfect example to those he served and lived with.

Visitation was held on Saturday, May 20th, at Our Lady of Holy Cross Chapel within the Schubert Villa-Dujarie House Complex from 9:30 to 11:00 am on the grounds of Holy Cross Village at Notre Dame. The Mass of Resurrection followed with interment in St. Joseph's Cemetery in the Village. Kaniewski Funeral Home handled the arrangements.

Memorial contributions, in honor Brother James Kumba, 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.

**Brother Lawrence Stewart**

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## "Young At Heart"

**Columba Hall: Wednesday, May 17, 7:00 PM**

**Br. James Kozak** gave a presentation to the Brothers entitled "An Evening with George Beverly Shea--and Beyond" with the subtitle "Young At Heart." In his talk, Brother James used a basic message: staying young at heart while getting older. He shared his experiences at Holy Cross College and the Forever Learning Institute in South Bend. The music and video clips of the famous gospel singer George Beverly Shea, who remained active until his death at the young age of 104, were also shared as an example of remaining "young at heart."



## Tree-Trunk Bench

A number of trees have had to be removed from behind Columba Hall. The trunk of one of these trees is now being turned into a tree-trunk bench by Mike Bagiackas, a member of the Columba Hall Staff.



## Welcome Visit with the Brothers

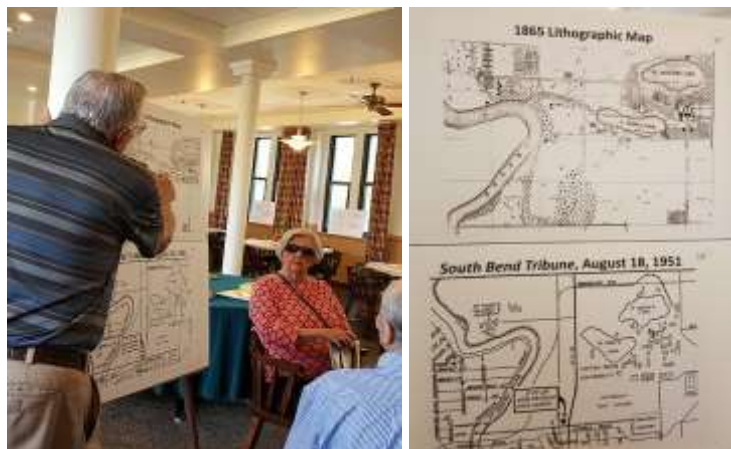


On Tuesday, May 16, 2017, residents of Holy Cross Village were invited to Columba Hall on the Notre Dame campus to visit with the Brothers who live there and to see historic and storied Columba Hall. The invitation was from Columba Hall and the Development

Department of the Midwest Province. The group who attended were people who had not been to Columba Hall although all HCV residents were welcome to enjoy a relaxed walk through the residence.

**Brother Thomas Moser**, superior, and **Brother Francis Ellis**, assistant superior greeted the visitors and gave them a brief overview of the history of Columba Hall through pictures and stories of the building. After their introduction, **Brother John McMuldren** led our visitors on a tour to see Bessette house, renovated guest rooms, the library, **Brother John Ptaszek's** art workshop, the computer room, the chapel, and the rec room where **Brother James Kane** showed his art pieces and cartoons. In the chapel **Brother George Klawitter** played songs on the organ. The organ is a recent gift to Columba Hall which has lots of "bells and whistles" on it.

At the end of the tour our visitors were invited to see the kitchen in operation and enjoy a midafternoon snack.





**A visit with the Columba Hall nurse**



**Brothers Francis (left) and Thomas (far right) share early history of Columba Hall**





**Brother James showing his art work**



**Brother George at the chapel organ.**

## Holy Cross President Announces New Leadership Appointments

**NOTRE DAME, IN (May 17, 2017)** — Holy Cross College is proud to announce that Justin Watson, Ph.D., previously vice president for academic affairs, has been appointed provost of the college, and Michael Griffin, Ph.D., tenured professor of theology, has been appointed senior vice president.



**Dr. Justin Watson:** As provost, Watson will maintain his role as chief academic officer of the college and advise the interim president on major policy matters internal and external to the college.

“For 22 years, Justin has been our bedrock of teaching and learning,” says Father David Tyson, C.S.C., interim president of Holy Cross College. “As provost, he will continue to be an example of selfless service to the college community.”

Watson received his undergraduate degree from the University of Nevada and his master’s degrees in English and rhetoric from Eastern Washington University. He received his Ph.D. in English from the University of Notre Dame, where his dissertation advisor was Joseph Buttigieg, father of Mayor Pete Buttigieg.

Prior to joining Holy Cross College in 1995, Watson taught adult learners at community colleges in Washington. He also served as the book review editor of the scholarly journal *Religion and Literature* for five years and worked for 11 years with first-year international MBA students in the Mendoza College of Business at the University of Notre Dame.

Among his many other accomplishments at Holy Cross College, Watson directed its first BA program, became the Dean of Faculty in 2007, and vice president for academic affairs in 2013. When the college joined the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics, Watson served as the first Faculty Athletics Representative.



“The Brothers of Holy Cross have taught me to focus everything on student success,” says Watson. “I am looking forward to working with the new college leadership to guide all our academic endeavors toward that goal.”

Justin and his wife Carlotta, residents of Granger, IN, have been married for 29 years and raised three children—Samantha, James, and Patrick.



**Dr. Michael Griffin:** As senior vice president, Griffin will oversee College Relations and the teams that work in student formation, including admissions, as well as advise the interim president on major policy matters internal and external to the college.

“Mike has been deeply involved with every aspect of the college mission since he began here, and he will continue that focus in his new role,” says Father Tyson. “With his deep understanding of education and the Congregation of Holy Cross charism, he will assist me in ensuring that the Holy Cross mission is present in every aspect of the college’s future plans.”

Griffin brings 13 years of experience and leadership to his new position at Holy Cross. After he graduated from the University of Notre Dame in 1993, Griffin worked for the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops before returning to the South Bend area. He began working at Holy Cross in 2004 and received his doctorate from the University of Notre Dame in 2014. A published author, Griffin has been the chair of the theology department at Holy Cross College since 2015.

“From the earliest days of the college, our mission has been formed by strong relationships—among faculty and students, with our partners at Notre Dame and Saint Mary’s, and with the South Bend community,” says Griffin. “I am humbled and excited to have the opportunity to strengthen further these connections at this unique moment in the history of Holy Cross College.”

Outside of Holy Cross College, Griffin is actively involved in his local community. A member of the school board for Holy Cross Grade School, he helped to initiate

the school's new dual language immersion program, which led to its largest enrollment increase in the last decade. He and his wife Catherine are co-founders of The Local Cup, a coffee shop in South Bend's Near Northwest Neighborhood that recently received national attention for its community-focused business model.

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**Cartoon  
by  
Brother  
James  
Kane,  
CSC**

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