

MIDWEST – MIDWEEK

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

August 30, 2023

Eulogy for Brother Julian Przybyla, C.S.C.

For those of you who do not know me, I am Brother Doug Roach, the superior at Columba Hall on the campus at Notre University. Columba Hall is the place where Brother Julian lived for the past eighteen years. My remarks about Brother Julian come from the thoughts of both Brother Charles Drevon and myself.



On behalf of the Brothers of Holy Cross, we extend our prayers to the entire Przybyla family on the death of their brother, Julian. Julian's three sisters: Lorry, Rita, and Anne; and his two Brothers, Anthony and Jim, are with us this morning. The Brothers thank all of you in this chapel for your presence to say our farewells to Brother Julian. It is Brother Julian who brought us here this morning. We may not know each other, but we are united by our presence. We are also grateful to Fr. Bill Blum, our celebrant, and Brother Joseph Fox master of ceremonies; to our cantor Theresa and Keti at the keyboard. To our pallbearers, Julian's two brothers, Anthony and Jim, his nephew, Stephen, his two nieces, Barb and Julie, and Greg, who knew Brother Julian when Julian was at Holy Cross High School, River Grove, IL.

The two scripture readings we heard today reminded me that life for all of us is a journey. All through the scriptures, people are constantly moving. All of our journeys have their ups and downs, their crosses and resurrections. Fr. Basil Moreau, the founder of the Congregation of Holy Cross, had two Latin words for a motto for his new religious order: "Spes Unica," translated "our only hope"; meaning the Cross is our only hope. Fr. Moreau himself endured many crosses and resurrections on his journey. Jesus encountered the same, and so will we.

Brother Julian spent sixty-seven years of his life in the Congregation of Holy Cross. Prior to that, he spent his formative years with his family in Rogers City, Michigan.

His parents, Anthony and Anna instilled values in Brother Julian's life and the lives of all their nine children. His family laid the foundation for the person Julian became. Today, the Congregation of Holy Cross extends its thanks to the entire Przybyla family for those early years, which sent Brother Julian on his own journey and to Holy Cross. Brother Julian spent his first twenty-five years in Holy Cross as a cook at schools where Brothers taught and administered. Brother Charles Drevon recalls how Brother Julian always followed the recipe. If it was to be a cup of sugar, it was exactly a cup; no more, no less. Recipes had rules to follow, and Brother Julian followed the rule. Also, there was no coming into the kitchen after meal times for a snack or to munch on leftovers.

After twenty-five years in the kitchen of various religious houses of Brothers, Brother Julian decided he needed a change. When he went to Holy Cross High School in River Grove, he decided to do maintenance and take care of the grounds around the school. At one time, this school had fourteen hundred boys, so there were a lot of school buildings, and a lot of grounds. Brother Julian attended night classes at Triton College, where he learned the basics of plumbing, electricity and machines. One of his instructors, whose first name is Jim, became a very good friend of Julian. Jim delighted in Julian's sense of humor. Over the years Julian became a regular family member. Julian witnessed the growth of Jim's five children. Today, a son of Jim is one of Julian's pallbearers. I was an administrator at the same school. I never had to see or know where Brother Julian was. Just as daylight follows night time, I knew Brother Julian would be working somewhere in the building or on the grounds. He was hard on himself, and he expected others to do the same. Again, you follow the rules. You do not change the rules.

After Brother Julian left Holy Cross High School in 2005, he spent the next eighteen years at Columba Hall helping out with maintenance and working on the grounds. When I arrived at Columba Hall, Brother Julian was the faithful sacristan day in and day out. He also continued to work on the grounds picking up sticks and tree limbs. During the winter months, if it had snowed during the night, he would be out shoveling snow at a very early hour in the morning. He had goals and he stuck with them. One time I was helping him set up the chapel for the Christmas season. We were struggling with getting the star in the exact place over the manger. I suggested to Brother Julian that we just forget about the star this year, but he insisted that the star had to go up.

For fun times, Julian loved to play golf, and he was very proud of the new set of clubs he received from his family during one of his jubilees. While in Illinois, he golfed every Saturday when the Indian Boundary golf course was open. When he moved to Columba Hall, he continued to play golf at the Notre Dame golf courses. When he began having some health issues, we would tell Brother Julian that if the ball went into the rough or into a sand trap to throw the ball on the fairway. For Julian that was against the rules, and he would not do that. We were not even keeping score; we just went out for some relaxation and fun. But no matter what, the rules must be kept. Perhaps the keeping of the rules is a characteristic of the Przybyla family.

As was mentioned earlier, Brother Julian had a sense of humor. A few weeks ago, Brother Joe McTaggart was wheeling Brother Julian out of the dining room. Joe said to Brother Julian, "Julian are you getting ready to see Jesus". Brother Julian replied: "Well if I am, I am not doing a very good job of it."

Brianna, one of Julian's nurses said that Brother Julian was kind, patient, sincere, and smart. He could hear a bird and know what kind it was without even looking out the window. Chantel, another of Julian's nurses said that Brother Julian had a heart of gold. Before his health began to fail him, every Sunday, he would walk over to our health care facility and visit with the Brothers who were in long term nursing care. Bethany, our province nurse, who was at the bedside when Brother Julian died, stated that Brother Julian was kind, and a gentle soul with the best of hearing. Justice, another nurse, said Brother Julian was a special person to her; he showed her that at any stage of life one can stay true to who they are.

Today we say our goodbyes and offer our thanks to our Brother Julian for his gift of life to all of us. May he now enjoy his everlasting home.

Brother Douglas Roach, C.S.C.

Funeral may be viewed on YouTube:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LQVkAsxu50k>

For Loss of Words

So often, Lord, while in prayer,
as I try to humbly approach
your majestic court,
I find I'm lost for words.
No easy phrase comes of any sort.

It seems no human language
contains the words I need.
But perhaps in my heart
you might plant a good seed,
that from it will grow a needed deed.

Often while sitting in chapel,
I observe others also in their quiet,
seeming not to struggle or grapple
as their prayer life apparently
contains a good diet.

Perhaps it would behoove me
to observe those at my side.
might grasp a different perspective,
a method of prayer they have applied.

Also, in my prayer life
I could search anew,
talk to someone saintly
who might give me a clue.

Now as I ponder these things,
and see others around me
who live a good life,
I pray, Lord, may I start it today,
not wait, then just file it away.

—**Brother Jerome Kroetch, CSC**



Holy Cross Roads

Writings for the Journey

We Are Called

As we travel down the road to meet our destiny, in our mind's eye we know that that involves God's special relationship with us. God's love for us in Christ has been implanted in us from the beginning. We are made in God's image and are meant to complete our calling, recognizing, accepting, and living out of that call. St. Augustine's words always ring true. "Our hearts were made for you, O God, and they will not rest until they rest in you."

If this is so and if we have come to not only an understanding but a will to live this call as a fundamental act of our being, then we can become more focused in the choices we make and the meaning we find in life's experiences. Power, wealth and pleasure do not become obsessions but can take their proper place on the journey to our final destination of resting in the love that God has always wanted for us.

We can only reach our destiny if we are willing to share our gifts in the building up of "God's kingdom on earth as it is in heaven." God's love for us needs to be poured out in our relationships with others and with God's creation.

- Does your freedom to choose your life's purpose involve God calling you?
- Have you heard God's call in the choosing of your vocation?
- How has that call involved the building up of God's kingdom?

O God, help me to listen more intently to your call in my life.

Brother Carl Sternberg, C.S.C.



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<https://weeklspiritualinsights.org/>



Battles

One Way Or Another: In biblical Old Testament times it was relatively common for victors of battles to carry out in the aftermath total annihilations of their enemy's populations by killing people directly. Often, however, an alternate method was used: salting agricultural lands and water resources. Such a procedure would render the soil infertile for further growing of food crops, and affecting such staple plants as grapes, and olive and fig trees, resulting in an eventual painful death by starvation and thirst. The strategy intended: a more prolonged, intense, cruel suffering, as well as a deterrent to any future colonization by others.

Barbarity was often practiced by the major nations of the time. Assyria had the reputation of being the worst.



Reflection sent in by Brother Thomas Maddix, C.S.C.



Everything in nature invites us constantly to be what we are.
~ Gretel Ehrlich, *The Solace of Open Spaces*



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Brother James Kane, CSC



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