

Legacy Project

February 11th

Brother Joseph John Chvala, C.S.C.

born: 30 May 1924

died: 11 February 2018



John was born in Ludington, Michigan, the son of Anton and Josephine (Miller) Chvala. He attended Pere Marquette Elementary School and Ludington High School, graduating as the class valedictorian. He worked for a year in an electrical shop and joined the U.S. Navy and served for 3 years and was honorably discharged. He studied at the University of Michigan for 2 years and followed his vocation to join the Holy Cross Brothers in 1949. After his novitiate year he went to Notre Dame graduating *magna cum laude* in 1954 and earned an Master's degree in English in 1966. He taught at all the high schools in the midwest, Cathedral High in Indianapolis, St. Edward High in Lakewood, Gilmour Academy, Holy Trinity in Chicago, His longest tenure of 40+ years was spent at St. Edward where he was revered (and feared) as a master teacher of English by students. His leadership and expertise were recognized by colleagues and honored with many awards and grants. He suffered a stroke in 1995 and needed a period of convalescence. He set goals and was determined to return to the classroom. He was invited to return and teach again at St. Edward High for 10 years and retired in 2006. The President at St. Edward commented that in his talks to alumni across the country, it was Brother Joseph who was the teacher who made the biggest difference in their lives and in their careers after graduation.

I have taught you in the way of wisdom.

--- Proverbs 4:11

A good teacher can inspire hope, ignite the imagination, and instill

a love of learning. --- Brad Henry