

Legacy Project

May 10th

Brother John Joseph Ptaszek, C.S.C.

born: 24 November 1933

died: 10 May 2018



John was born in Chicago, the son of Stanley and Catherine (Hendzel) Ptaszek. He attended St. Boniface Elementary and Holy Trinity High School, both within walking distance of the family home. The Brothers had a great influence on John, for he decided to join them at Watertown and Rolling Prairie after graduating in 1952. He pronounced his first vows in 1953 and studied at St. Edward's University graduating with degrees in English and social studies in 1957. He began a long and dedicated life as a teacher first at Cathedral High in Indianapolis, then Archbishop Hoban High in Akron, at Catholic High in Monroe, Michigan and then 30 years as teacher and librarian at LeMans Academy in Rolling Prairie. In 2003 he moved to Holy Cross High in River Grove, Illinois. When the school was closed the next year, John moved to nearby Guerin High School serving as teacher and enthusiastic librarian until 2014. He retired to Columba Hall where he enjoyed his love of painting and opera. He inspired others to develop a hobby and helped develop an "artist studio" on the 4th floor of Columba Hall. His painting and meticulous artwork have impressed others. He commented that his love of art and opera have been both prayers and blessings for more than 60 years.

Music is in the ear of one who hears, just as beauty is in the
eyes of one who sees...

~Florence Percy

All kinds of music, ye fall down and worship.

-- Daniel 3:7