

Legacy Project

January 20, 2026

Brother James Edward Kozak, C.S.C.

born: 19 May 1942
died: 20 January 2026



James was born in Grand Rapids, MI, where he attended St. Thomas the Apostle Grade School. He graduated from Catholic Central High School in 1960 and entered the Brothers of Holy Cross. Brother James held degrees in English from the University of Notre Dame and pastoral studies from Loyola University in Chicago, IL. Having taken the fourth vow, James was sent to West Africa where he held several positions from 1965 to 1990, first in Liberia and then in Ghana. In 1995, he moved to Clinton, MI, and served for the next ten years at Boysville of Michigan. His final teaching assignment was at Archbishop Hoban High School in Akron, OH, where he worked until 2012. From 2012 until his death, he resided at Columba Hall while working as a tutor, a chaplain for the soccer teams, and an assistant rector for Pulte Hall at Holy Cross College.

"Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?' Then I said, 'Here am I! Send me'" Isaiah 6:8

"I ask that you live your sport as a gift from God, an opportunity not only to bring your talents to fruition, but also as a responsibility." *Pope Francis*