

# MIDWEST – MIDWEEK

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

Jun 8, 2022

## Eulogy for Brother Lawrence Stewart. C.S.C.

On behalf of the Congregation of Holy Cross we offer our condolences to the Stewart/Didion family, especially to Brother Larry's brother Steve, his sister Karen and brother-in-law Russ Kern, sister-in-law Jean Stewart, nephew Brian Kern, nephew, Timothy Kern, nieces Megan, Molloy, and Jennifer Staczik who have joined us today. Thank you for sharing Brother Larry with us for 65 years as a member of the Brothers of Holy Cross.



Brother Lawrence (also known and called Larry, Lar) Stewart was born in Norwalk, Ohio to Lawrence B. Stewart and Agnes (Didion) Stewart in 1937 on St. Patrick's Day. From his early years he was a very good student and received special honors and distinctions at each level of his education from grade school to doctoral studies and in a fellowship sponsored by the American Society for Microbiology.

He attended [St. Edward High School, Lakewood, OH](#) and met the Brothers of Holy Cross there. Larry joined the Brothers of Holy Cross very soon after graduating from high school.

In addition to the influence of his parents teaching him to be aware of details, it is noteworthy that before entering Holy Cross he worked as an etcher in the Inspection Department at the National Tool Company as well as the inspector in the Inspection Department. This helps to further explain his attention to detail and precision as a teacher and great organizational skills as an archivist.

Larry was always wanting to be ready, on time and ahead of a situation if possible. When Larry was away from the office for a few days he would see if any brothers were ill and possibly would die when he was scheduled to be away. We found out that he wrote some obituaries early leaving key dates obviously open until he got the word of the actual death.

While I knew of Bro. Larry it was not until around 2007 when he became the archivist for the Midwest Province that I saw his work ethic, talent, sense of humor. He renamed the basement in the Provincial Administration building “the garden” level. Larry had his “Proud Moments” and one of the first was the “Holy Cross History Timeline” in the hallway leading to the archives. It starts in 1767 with the birth of Rev. James Dujarie, to 2011 when the Southwest and Eastern Provinces became the Moreau Province. Brother Lar also, along with Debbie Niedbalski, put up a photo of [the coat of arms of institutions](#) that involved the Midwest Province from 1853 St. Placid’s High School, Chittagong, Bangladesh to Holy Cross Village, 1999.

He gave tours of the archives to residents of Holy Cross Village, also to faculty and staff of Holy Cross College as part of their orientation, to donors. and to almost anyone who had even the slightest interest in the “Story of Holy Cross.”

Another “proud moment” task that Brother Lar took on was President of the [Holy Cross History Association](#). This involved publishing the newsletter, organizing the annual Holy Cross History Association gathering and recruiting presenters for each conference. Of course, generous Larry would almost always make one of the presentations. He was also the treasurer for the History Association.

Several years ago Larry came by my office one day to visit me. However I was in the hallway walking measured steps, one foot very close to the other, heel, toe, heel, toe with a staff member from RUSH. Later on Larry came by and asked me what was I doing. I told him this was part of the RUSH Study regarding Alzheimer’s. His eyes lit up and right away he wanted to know if he could join it. This led to my asking the director, Tracey Nowakowski, if RUSH could make a presentation to the members of Columba Hall. The presentation was made and 8 brothers joined the study.

Larry said both of his parents had Alzheimer’s disease. He knew that it would likely show up in his life, and he would face it head on as he did many things in his life.

One day it became apparent that Larry would have to give up his driver's license. This was a tough moment for him. He asked me to drive him to a family gathering, a birthday party for one of his aunts who I think was aunt Dorothy. I think it was another "proud moment" when Larry could show me "the farm" that he spoke about so often. This parcel of land, in Bellevue, Ohio, has been a part of the Stewart /Didion families since 1852 and most of it remains in the Stewart / Didion family.

The gathering for Aunt Dorothy (one of thirteen children) was quite a gathering with a "ton" of folks who enjoy each other, warm welcomes all around. Being part of a big family myself, I felt at home.

Let me say that his brother Steve is meticulous when it comes to housekeeping and the grounds (farm) in general. Steve is a wonderful guest master and does craft work and farming.

Let me say another "proud moment" was when Larry rode a bike "Border-to-Border" under the direction of "Coach" Bob Davenport and his Wandering Wheels crew. The ride was 1,596 miles and started on May 22<sup>nd</sup> at the "Gulf border near Waveland, Miss. After 20 consecutive days of pedaling they reached the "Canadian border" in

Sault Ste. Marie. Steve told Larry, "You're going the wrong way, Lar. You should start in Canada and then you could go downhill all the way to the Gulf!"

Perhaps he would, I think, consider his top "Proud Moment" that of being a vital member of the Committee of the "[Notre Dame Trail.](#)" the pilgrimage from Vincennes, Indiana, to Notre Dame. Brother Larry trained for months so he could "go the distance" no matter his age. Several members of the committee said Brother Lar was, as far as they were concerned, a vital and necessary member of the 36 people who made the trek.

Along the way the group stopped in Logansport, Indiana. This was a stop that Father Sorin and Brothers Francis Xavier and Gatian made in 1842. Brother Lawrence spoke in his homily to the people of Logansport saying, "And today, we pilgrims are grateful for the generosity and hospitality that you, descendants of Logansport, provided those original Holy Cross people, who visited here 175 years ago."

Upon their return, the pilgrimage group asked him to speak at the banquet which was held at what was once [St. Joe Farm, Granger, Indiana.](#) He was all smiles and

so thrilled to have been such a vital part of this group. His pride manifested itself as he “crossed the finish line” in front of Columba Hall on August, 2017.

For a Notre Dame football game, he was invited to come onto the field at half time to receive recognition as one of the members of the pilgrimage. At first he had tried to talk his way out of going on the field; however Kathrine and the group would not hear of such a thing and insisted that he be a part of this historic recognition as there were 7 brothers who made the original trek from Vincennes, Indiana, to Notre Dame, 175 years ago.

Many people appreciated Bro. Lar’s friendly spirit and eagerness to share information and history of Holy Cross. Sr. Jeannette Fettig, CSC, said “we’ve lost a friend and scholar.” Stephen J. Mattingly, Ph.D, a colleague, spoke of Brother Larry whom he met when Larry was studying at the University of Texas. They got to know one another and became fast friends. Brother Larry would fish on the lake near Marble Falls, Texas. Two brothers, Andrew and Donard, would accompany Larry some of the time. He would take some of “the catch” back to Austin. Steve said, “This shows how Larry was able to connect a situation and people to achieve an even greater good. I can imagine that there were thousands of such examples throughout Larry’s life that are known only to God.”

Another friend who wanted to remain anonymous said:  
A few things I always admired and appreciated about Brother Larry: where he would always greet you with a smile; he would always make time to teach on any subject with which he was familiar. He was generous with his time, his knowledge, and his laughter. Like so many Holy Cross Brothers, his first priority as a teacher was to draw out the best of his students, not settle for mediocrity. He expected this of himself as well.

In his autobiography for the [BROTHERS’ NEWSLETTER](#) in 2017, his 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary he thanked many people by name whom he was grateful for having met along the way and places where he worked, taught, and lived. He was blessed having met so many good people along the way.

Bro. Joseph McTaggart pointed out to me that since Bro. Lar was involved in the RUSH Religious Study, He is still a part of the solution, his struggle is his way of doing what needs to be done. His body ends up serving others.

Finally let us pray:

This is the day the Lord has made,  
Let us give thanks for the day and  
celebrate Brother Larry and his  
helping us to connect and appreciate the  
men and women who have been trailblazers in  
our story, herstory, history.

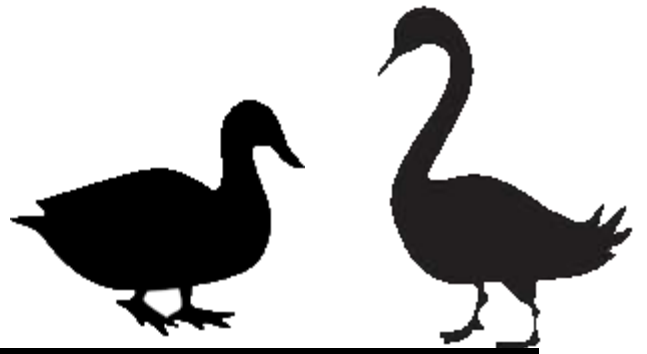
He has helped us see the roles  
of our forebears and may we  
search and expand on all that  
he has boxed and labeled.  
May we continue to tell the story of Holy Cross.

**Brother Roy Smith, C.S.C.**

## **Ducks and Geese**

**Across the road near the campus lake,  
I saw a gander and a drake.  
Like sentinels they stood their ground  
Surveying hens and offspring 'round.  
Their sounds together seemed to be  
A squatter's claim to residency.  
With an innate trust in providence,  
They live their lives in confidence.  
As ducks and geese, they all fulfill  
Instinctively God's holy will.**

**Brother Robert Mosher, C.S.C.**



## Holy Cross Roads Writings for the Journey

### Sound the Trumpets

In Pope Francis' letters to the world, "The Joy of the Gospel," "Care for the Earth as Our Common Home," and "Brotherhood and Sisterhood," Francis is calling for a dialog among peoples that extends to families, neighbors, religions, states, countries. This dialog seems far reaching in many respects given the reality in which we find ourselves. The divisions which divide us are all too present as we experience everyday life.

The Vatican II documents declare that the Church in its essence is a missionary Church that calls all humanity to a unity. It is to be a living witness to this unity in which the God of all creation is one. The Church is to proclaim this oneness and helps us humans begin to discover identity by becoming aware of our brotherhood and sisterhood. In this awareness we begin to realize that this is the basis for significant dialog. "Peace on earth with people of good will." The Church is the "People of God." We are the church when we strive to make connections with all peoples. This awareness that as Christians we have a missionary calling is not necessarily to convert but to be a witness to a God in Christ who cares for and loves us all. Pope Francis' three letters flesh out for us in our time of need what Vatican II declares. Don't give up hope. Sound the trumpets!

- What does the brotherhood and sisterhood of all peoples mean to you?
- Who exemplifies this brotherhood and sisterhood for you?
- How does the brotherhood and sisterhood of all peoples challenge you?

**O God expand my motivation dialog with my brothers and sisters.**



**Brother Carl Sternberg, C.S.C.**

For more reflections to grow spiritually please visit our new blog  
<https://weeklyspiritualinsights.org/>

From the *Voice of Moreau Website*

The website features a Holy Cross sister, a brother, or a priest, with a weekly story on the blog. Check the following link below.



Website:



**Brother  
Philip Smith**



**Brother  
Ben Rossi**





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



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"A generous heart is always open,  
always ready to receive our going and  
coming. In the midst of such love we  
need never fear abandonment.  
This is the most precious gift true love  
offers - the experience of knowing  
we always belong."  
- St. Francis of Assisi, in All About Love: New Insights

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Brother  
James  
Kane,  
CSC



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