

# MIDWEST – MIDWEEK

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

February 24, 2016

## Words of Remembrance for Brother Camillus Kirsch, CSC

### Reflection



Good morning. I am Brother Chester Freel, Provincial Superior for the Brothers of Holy Cross, Midwest Province. On behalf of the Brothers, I wish to express our condolences to the family and friends of Brother Camillus (William) Kirsch who are in attendance today. With us are Camillus' niece Barbara McDermott of Indianapolis and several of Brother Camillus' grandnieces and grandnephews, and their children. Your "Uncle Bill" loved you, his family, very much, and would often speak of telephone calls, visits, and greeting cards from you. This is also evident from the numerous photo albums and framed family pictures which he maintained in his room. We thank you for being with us today to celebrate Brother Camillus' life.

I also wish to extend the appreciation of the Brothers to the staff of Schubert Villa and Dujarie House, who provided wonderful care and assistance to Brother these last nine years. Anyone who visited with Camillus was able to observe your care and affection for him as you assisted him with his daily needs. Thank you!

Brother Camillus was born and raised in Indianapolis, met the Brothers of Holy Cross as a student at Cathedral High School, attended the University of Notre Dame where he graduated magna cum laude, and with the exception of one year studying in Chicago and a year of ministry in Michigan, lived his entire life in Indiana. With 97 of his 99 years spent in this state, Camillus certainly qualified to be called a Hoosier. One definition of "Hoosiers" lists the following characteristics: industrious, hospitable, and downhome folk, who enjoy popcorn, Indian summers, race cars and high school basketball. I am not sure about the race cars or basketball, but the rest of the criteria definitely apply to Brother Camillus.

Camillus' ministry assignments in Indiana stretched from Evansville to Notre Dame, and were highlighted by a total of 27 years in Terre Haute and 29 years of ministry in Indianapolis. After earning a master's degree in Social Work from the

University of Chicago, Brother Camillus began his career at Fr. Gibault School for Boys in Terre Haute. Fr. Gibault is a school which works with young men court ordered to the facility for various behavior problems. From 1945 –47 Brother Camillus served as the third Executive Director of Gibault but his real love was direct ministry with the students. In fact Camillus became legendary for his work with the Junior Dorm, thirty boys between the ages of 10 – 13. He would supervise the after-school and weekend shifts, often as the lone staff member, sometimes with an understudy in training. Those who worked with Camillus at Gibault described him as fair, firm, and dedicated to the boys and the school. John Barrett, a former Director at Gibault, included the following in a reflection upon learning of Camillus' death: "Camillus was outstanding at scheduling and making his charges 'toe the line.' His nickname was SARGE! He saw to it that these young men were ready to return to their homes after having learned an entire new way of life! Many of them visited Camillus after they had returned home, some at an early age and others married with children. For sure, his legacy carries on!"

However, Brother Camillus' influence also extended to staff with whom he worked. In June of 1969, then Provincial Brother Charles Krupp wrote the following in a letter to Camillus: "Undoubtedly you have been told that the province is taking from Gibault another young brother whom you trained...I hope you will not be discouraged at knowing that we plan to continue sending young men to Gibault to be trained by you...Your record of success is a great one, and whatever your formula, it has produced excellent results....This letter has no other purpose than to let you know that you are...rendering an invaluable service to the province....Be assured that your efforts have widespread influence and are deeply appreciated."

In 1972 after the death of his mother, Brother Camillus moved to Indianapolis to maintain the family home until his brother had a chance to sell it, and Camillus remained there until the turn of the century. It is my understanding that the home still remains with the family as Barbara now lives there. In Indianapolis, Camillus continued his career and ministry of helping others, this time as a clinical social worker assisting adults receiving mental health services through the state welfare system. At the Central State Hospital, Camillus soon became well known and highly respected. Brother Roy Smith's sister was on staff at the time with Camillus, and she reports he was not only a friend but also a mentor to her and many others. As at Gibault, he was helpful to coworkers, developed himself professionally, and was committed to helping clients see, understand, and overcome their problems.

At the age of 70, Camillus retired from the state hospital, but remained in Indianapolis volunteering as an assistant chaplain at the Americana Nursing Home for another 13 years. In the year 2000, Brother Camillus decided it was time to move to Notre Dame. However, for anyone who saw him at Columba Hall or when he later moved to Schubert Villa, it was clear he was not slowing down. Up until just two years ago, Brother Camillus was famous for his twice-a-day, 45 minute walks. In good weather these would be outside, but when cold weather set in, these would be on the second floor of Schubert where he would vigorously pace the hallways, even when he needed the assistance of a rollator. Because of his determination and steadfastness to these walks, Camillus was often affectionately referred to as the “Energizer Bunny.” He just kept going, and going...and going, no matter what.

As already indicated, Camillus loved being outside and he was quite active. This might be playing handball with students at Evansville Reitz Memorial High School, his morning jogging routine at Fr. Gibault School, mowing grass and tending to the shrubs at the family home, or hiking with Brother Donald Morgan in state parks near Indianapolis. In his later years, Camillus enjoyed just sitting in the sun in front of Dujarie House, greeting visitors and staff as they approached the building. Camillus also loved telling stories and jokes, and interjecting an occasional pun into a conversation.

When one visited with him, after 40—50 minutes Camillus would say: “I know your time is short, but let me just finish this story” and twenty minutes later, you would find yourself having listened to another three stories. Yes, Camillus was welcoming and hospitable, easy to talk with, and always very kind. He expressed appreciation and sincere gratitude for the simplest of acts: holding a door open for him, answering a question, or offering to get him a beverage at the dining table.

Indeed, Camillus had many remarkable traits, but I would be remiss not to comment on his prayer life. Anyone spending any frequency in this chapel (Our Lady of Holy Cross) soon learned the location of Brother Camillus’ seat: right side, fourth row from the front, aisle seat. This was his place, and, as I once learned after a reprimand from him, no one else was to sit there. He was faithful to mass attendance and his twice daily periods of prayer and meditation, right up to his last days. In his bedroom, his office book had an assigned location near the reading chair, and Morning and Evening Prayer were clearly part of his routine. He once told me, “I can’t hear well enough anymore to pray with the group in the chapel, but don’t worry, Brother Chester, I say my office every day. I am a good religious.” Yes, you were Camillus, to the very end of your life.

In Matthew's Gospel (5:15) there is this well-known passage: "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven." This parable is a great summary of the life of Brother Camillus. Not only did he enjoy sunlight, but he himself was light to those with whom he ministered. Camillus brought hope to all he encountered.

The students and faculty at Gibault benefited from his insight, discipline, and stability. The staff and clients of the state hospital were helped by his expertise and professional skills. The residents at the nursing home in Indianapolis were comforted by his words, compassion, and presence. And all of us—his brothers in Holy Cross, his family gathered here this morning, and the staff and his fellow residents of Schubert Villa and Dujarie House—we all benefited from, and are better people because of Brother Camillus' kindness, stories, friendship, and enthusiasm for life.

Brother Camillus shared his life and light with all. He did not hide his talent or withhold his good works from others. Thank you, Brother Camillus, for sharing the sunlight and your life with us. May you now enjoy the warmth, light, and peace of our Lord.

Thank you.

**Brother Chester Freel**

## Brother John Tryon

From Fr. Tom O'Hara of the US Province of Priests and Brothers to Br. Chester Freel:

February 8, 2016

Chet: Greetings from LIMA. John Tryon is doing a superb job at the Novitiate. His Spanish is more than good enough. He is well respected in the District and especially by the novices. As you can see, he has lost nearly 80 lbs. Take care, Tom



## Brother from Ghana Visits Hoban to Observe use of Technology



February, 2016



For the next six weeks, Holy Cross Brother Aristide Biney will be observing the use of educational technology at Hoban. When the new Saint Brother André High School opens in Kasoa, Ghana, in September, Brother Aristide will be its technology director. He has helped with youth programs in parishes and has been active with Family Rosary, helping with retreats and giving talks on the Rosary and Blessed Virgin Mary. He has taught in high schools, and his current apostolate is campus minister at St. Augustine's High School.



ST. EDWARD  
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## Laurie Beaudry Presented with 2016 Martin Luther King Jr. Award

Wednesday, January 20, 2016



At today's Martin Luther King Jr. prayer service, President Jim Kubacki presented Laurie Beaudry with the 2016 St. Edward High School Martin Luther King Jr. Award for her work spreading the message of non-violence, love and human dignity throughout our community.

Laurie joined our faculty in 1986 as campus minister and in 1998 became the first woman to serve as a school counselor at St. Edward. She chaired the Counseling Department from 2002-2013 and retired in 2014. She continues to serve the school as a volunteer.

In her time at St. Ed's, Laurie developed a variety of innovative and transformational programs, all with the needs of our students in mind. She co-founded the Student Mediation

Program and helped to develop the Grief Support Team, Student Support Team, the St. Edward Council on Human Relations, and the Dialogue Day program. Laurie has worked tirelessly, and in so many different ways, to make the St. Edward community a place of faith, a place of understanding, a place filled with love, and a place where all students are cared for.

We thank Laurie Beaudry for her nearly 30 years of dedication to the school and for serving as a shining example of what it means to be a person with Hope to Bring.



From  
**BEST OF THE WEEK**  
FEBRUARY 8 - FEBRUARY 12, 2016



## THE WOW FACTOR!

### THE LENTEN SACRIFICE - 1-1-1 CHALLENGE

On Wednesday, the St. Edward Community came together for Ash Wednesday Mass, and Fr. Tim Roth of St. Angela Merici Parish reminded us that Lent is not just a time to give something up—it's a time to experience personal growth.

St. Edward Theology teacher Mr. Jurell Sison's writings on "How Lent Can Save Your Life" were featured this week on the lifeteen.com blog. Mr. Sison subscribes to the 1-1-1 Plan during Lent - give up 1 thing; pick up 1 thing; and, focus on 1 sin.

Sison writes, "This Lent, I pray that we can take our Lenten sacrifices seriously - myself included. When we do, we will not only find ourselves stronger and more resilient in the face of temptation but we will also discover the full meaning of a Lent that leads to resurrection." [Read his full blog post.](#)

As we navigate the 40 Days of Lent, may you find the strength to experience personal growth, and allow the Lenten season to change your life.

## Lenten Lecture Series – 2016

**Wednesday Evenings: 7-8 PM  
Geenan Hall**

February 24                      Margie Pfeil and Bill Weidman

“Conscious Aging and Simplicity ”

Margie Pfeil and Biff Weidman are both part of the local Catholic Worker community. Biff works part-time in library conservation at Notre Dame and has served as a minister in the Mennonite tradition. Margie teaches theological ethics at Notre Dame.



March 2                              Father Robert Loughery, CSC



March 9

Brother John Paige, CSC

“Eleazar: Martyr and Model in the Battle with Subtle Temptation” (2 Maccabees 6: 18-31)

Brother John Paige, CSC, a native of Albany, NY, is currently in his fourth year of service as President of Holy Cross College at Notre Dame, Indiana. Brother John has worked with youth and young adults as a teacher, coach and administrator in secondary schools; as a college professor and administrator in higher education institutions in the USA and East Africa; as a formator of young religious in the Congregation of Holy Cross, and as a member of the General Administration of the Congregation. He resides at the St. Joseph House Formation Community on the Holy Cross College campus.

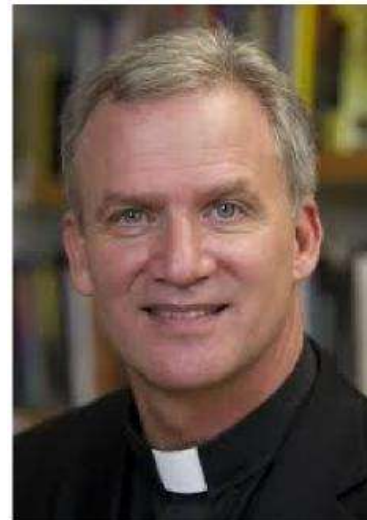


March 16

Father Dan Groody, CSC

“Migration Year of Mercy and Pope Francis”

Daniel Groody has built his reputation in the area of immigration and international migration over the past 20 years. In doing so, he has had the opportunity to speak at universities around the world while still teaching courses in theology at the University of Notre Dame. He has also been recognized for his professional experience and fellowships and is an award winning author and film producer.



**Columba Hall Retreat**

**March 13 - March 17, 2016**

**Breakfast each morning at 7:00AM**

**Sunday March 13:**

7:00PM Opening Conference:

**Monday March 14: - Tuesday March 15:**

9:00AM Morning Prayer and Conference

11:30AM Lunch

5:15PM Liturgy/Homily

Dinner

7:00PM Conference

**Wednesday: March 16**

9:00AM Morning Prayer and Conference

11:30AM Lunch

5:00PM Liturgy and Homily

Dinner

7:00PM Penance Service

**Thursday: March 17**

9:00AM Closing Liturgy

## Reminders

### Past Copies of Midwest-Midweek

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Editor                    **Br. Kenneth Kane**  
Webmaster              **Br. Richard Johnson**  
Proofreader:          **Br. George Klawitter**

Please send material to the link below by Thursday the week before Midwest-Midweek is published.

**Send material to this address:**

[Midwest-Midweek@brothersofholycross.com](mailto:Midwest-Midweek@brothersofholycross.com)