

MIDWEST – MIDWEEK

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

May 30, 2018

Brother John Ptaszek, C.S.C. Eulogy

Welcome to all. Thank you for coming on behalf of the Holy Cross Community. My name is Brother Shaun Gray. I have been a member of the Community for 51 years. I'm here to celebrate the life of Brother John Ptaszek. It was a good day when our paths crossed. A meeting that would lead to a great friendship for many years. Actually, to the end of Brother John's life on earth and the legacy he left with us.

I first met Brother John at our Cathedral High School in Indianapolis, Indiana, where he was teaching in 1968. Our paths did not cross again until he was assigned to Le Mans Academy in Rolling Prairie, Indiana in 1973. At Le Mans he served as Librarian and Resident Supervisor. From the beginning, he established good relationships, displayed a meaningful spiritual life and became a great role model for all who knew him.



Brother John always took pride in everything he did. For example, his leadership was evident when his dorm won many awards for excellence. You could definitely rely on his willingness to help out when he was needed. When a dorm supervisor was not available Brother John was. As he would reply when I asked for his help, "OK. Brat." (Brother in Polish!) His outstanding library skills showed good organization to the point of constant updating in the digital age.

After 30 years of hard work and dedication his career ended there when Le Mans closed in 2003. Even though our lives went in different directions, our friendship endured. I moved to Michigan City, Indiana, and Brother John moved to Chicago.

Brother John's great attitude and enthusiasm continued to flourish at several other educational institutions in the Chicago area. Meanwhile, I connected with St.

Stanislaus Kostka Parish in Michigan City, Indiana.

As time went by Brother John would come to visit me. As a ray of sunshine he was truly welcomed. He would stay at the rectory. Father Walter and his mother Harriet were delighted by Brother John's vibrant personality, especially when he and Harriet conversed in Polish. What a fun time they enjoyed!

Eventually Brother John moved to Columba Hall at Notre Dame University. Because he was always there for me over the years, I wanted to be there for him, especially as his health began to decline. I would pick him up at Columba Hall and drive him to his niece's home in Chicago. Then, after several days I would drive back to Chicago, pick him up, stop at his favorite restaurant for lunch (even there everyone knew him and enjoyed his visit), stop for a visit at St. Stan's, and then take him back to Columba Hall.

Not all friendships survive so successfully and for so long. Ours did. It is a wonderful gift. When the end was near, Brother Lew contacted Brother John's niece who contacted me with the news. I went to visit Brother John at Dujarie House. He was alert so I thought maybe he would be around for a little while, but God had other plans for him. Brother John died the next morning.

It has been many years since we first met on that fateful day in Indianapolis. Life proves that neither time nor distance makes a difference between good friends. I will miss Brother John because without him there is definitely a void in my life. Yet because of the friendship we shared, he will live on in the coming years as great memories that I will always cherish.

Brother Shaun Gray

Midwest Holy Cross Associates Commitments – May 19, 2018



Brother Carl Sternberg leads with a short introduction before commitments are made.

Two Associates chapters, HC-Village and Andre Place, celebrate their annual commitment to – spirituality, community, and ministry – with Mass and a renewal of commitments, followed by a sharing of a meal together.



Tribute to Brother Richard Gilman and His Legacy
Holy Cross College Commencement Speaker
Saturday – May 19, 2018

Good morning faculty, family and friends and congratulations, graduates! My name is Kate Palmer, KP, and I am a 2007 Holy Cross College alumna. When I left the college, I didn't know the next time I'd be able to come for a visit, and it took so much longer than I would have liked. I have been living in New York City for several years, and I love the frenetic energy of the startup world, the daily hustle and grind, but I absolutely love coming back to campus. A visit to Holy Cross always leaves me feeling calm and loved and recharged. You'll see what I mean in a few years—Holy Cross always feels like home.

It doesn't seem that long ago I stood up here at my own Holy Cross College graduation. **President Br. Richard Gilman** was always a fan of incorporating sometimes off the wall media into his presentations, and my graduation was no exception. He called me and another student up here with him, played Fly like an Eagle by the Steve Miller Band and made us flap our arms for the duration of the song. All seven minutes of it. To honor him, I considered doing the same, playing the song and pulling a few lucky graduates up here to flap their arms with me, but ultimately decided against it.

It saddens me that most people in this room did not know Br. Richard, not only because he was an amazing man but because he is the reason you all sit here today. He took Holy Cross from a junior college and created the baccalaureate program we have all benefited from. I was in the third graduating class and graduated with about 15 people. I am so proud and amazed to see how we've grown. It is also because of him you were able to live on campus, play on the basketball court, the volleyball court, the athletic fields. He started the Office of Campus Ministry, the athletic program, the Pfiel Center and so much more. Br. Richard passed away last year, and I wanted to take a minute to acknowledge his life and his work and to honor his legacy as it sits before me today.



Around the time of my graduation, one of my professors, Dr. Justin Watson, called me “scrappy”. At the time, I did not know quite how to take that, it seemed like it could go either way, but in the context of the conversation it seemed like a compliment. That conversation has always stuck with me. Over the subsequent 11 years, I have been called scrappy many more times, and I have finally begun to embrace it and take it as the compliment that it is. While I was reflecting on my experience at Holy Cross and thinking about all of the amazing people I met here, I realized scrappiness is a trait that is rare in the world, but very commonly found here on this campus. Holy Cross students are scrappy! It is what bonds and identifies us. I know most of you are feeling the same way I did when Dr. Watson first said it to me, but I am here to tell you: Being scrappy is definitely a compliment and it will definitely take you a long way.

What exactly do I mean by Holy Cross students are scrappy? It means we are resilient and do not crumble under uncertainty and adversity. It means we do what we have to do to get the job done, and while there may not always be a clear path from A to Z, we have the ingenuity to solve problems creatively. If plan A doesn't work out, we don't cry or complain, we just go on to plan B. We'll go over, around, sideways to achieve our goal. We are determined, we are fighters, and we will always rise to the occasion, no matter the circumstances.

You may not have realized it, but your Holy Cross curriculum quietly nurtured these qualities in you over the last 4 years. Yes, you were learning calculus and biology and history, but really you were learning how to learn, how to think creatively, and how to overcome obstacles.

So what does this mean for you, for your future? I can tell you from experience I have never known a Holy Cross graduate I had to worry about. We bulldoze our own paths, we push the envelope, we never stop learning and adapting and we never quit. President Obama actually summed up perfectly what we scrappy Holy Cross graduates inherently understand. He said “Your success in life won't be determined just by what's given to you, or what happens to you, but by what you do with all that's given to you—what you do with all that happens to you. How hard you try, how far you push yourself, how high you're willing to reach. True excellence comes only with perseverance. Fight for your seat at the table. Better yet: fight for a seat at the head of the table.



Kate Palmer '07

Stay scrappy, class of 2018!

Tim Bopp, president of Holy Trinity High School, Highlighted
Info from: Chicago – WGN



WGN recognizes Holy Trinity's Mr. Bopp in new segment 'You're Awesome!'

Click link below to view video (Be patient with the download).

<http://wgntv.com/2018/05/23/wgn-recognizes-holy-trinitys-mr-bopp-in-new-segment-youre-awesome/>

Article from: **Gilmour Academy's
Parent Newsletter**

**Br. Robert Lavelle Honored by St.
Ed's with St. Andre Bessette, C.S.C.
Award
May 15, 2018**

Congratulations are in order for Headmaster Emeritus **Brother Robert Lavelle, C.S.C.** At the St. Edward High School Recognition Dinner held at the Ritz-Carlton on May 15, Br. Robert, a St. Ed's alum and Board member, received the St. Andre Bessette, C.S.C. Award for his loyal support of the school.

Photos by Ken Hoover





Funeral for Brother James Evertt, C.S.C.
Saint Edward High School, Lakewood, Ohio



St. Edward High School Video

Link: <https://www.sehs.net/brjamesfuneralmass>

Holy Cross Village at Notre Dame

***Cordially invites you to join us for a
Ground Blessing Ceremony
at Dujarie House
on Monday June 18th at 1 p.m. EST***

*The ceremony will take place on the lawn between Dujarie House and
St. Joseph's Place on our campus. Seating will not be available for this brief
service.*



Open House at Columba Hall New Residence of Holy Cross Village

Open house began on Columba Hall's outside patio, a Brother Thomas Moser addition to Columba Hall. Following this small gathering, visitors were given a floor by floor tour of the hall.



**Columba Hall & Besette House
Photo by Brother Michael Brickman**

Reflection



Mountain path (ccc) pxhere

The best preparation for tomorrow
Is doing your best today.

— H. Jackson Brown, Jr. —


**Emmanuel
Care**

This reflection is courtesy of Mission, Ethics, and Spirituality Office
www.emmanuelcare.ca



Cartoon
by
Brother
James
Kane,
CSC

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