



Bro. James A. Rago

November 11, 1925 - January 28, 2011

Bro. James Rago, a member of the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales, died early Friday morning, January 28, 2011. He was 85 years old and a professed religious of the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales for 57 years. At the time of his death he was a member of the community of the Rosary Care Center, Sylvania Ohio.

In addition to his brothers in the Oblates one brother, Gabriel Rago, of Wilmington Delaware and several nieces and nephews, survive him. Born on November 11, 1925, he was the son of the late Frank and Mary Verderamo Rago of Wilmington Delaware. He entered the Oblates in 1952 and professed vows in May of 1954.

Most of Brother's life was spent in the ministry of catholic education. He earned his undergraduate and graduate degrees in Guidance and Counseling from the University of Detroit. He taught and served as Guidance Director in a number of schools sponsored by the Oblates in New York, Pennsylvania and especially in Michigan where he served in the former Salesian High School, the former Aquinas High School and Holy Redeemer High School.

In 2005 he came to St. Francis de Sales High School and community as a Senior Religious assisting in a number of positions at St. Francis and winning the hearts of all by his generous, enthusiastic yet gentle manner. This past September he moved to Rosary Care.

Funeral services for Brother will be held on Tuesday February 1, 2011 at Gesu Church, 2049 Parkside Blvd. Toledo Ohio 43607 beginning with the Rite of

Reception of the Body at 3:00 p.m. followed by a Wake. The Mass of Christian Burial will begin at 7:00 p.m. Burial will follow the next day in the Oblate section of Resurrection Cemetery. Arrangements are through Coyle Funeral Home of Toledo.

Tribute Wall



“ Bro. Rago,
Was a good spirited man who helped guide many a student at AHS
in Michigan. I will always remember his infectious smile that
welcomed all. - God Speed -##imported-begin##C Johnson AHS
(95) ba8983@wayne.edu##imported-end##

January 28, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ I fondly remember Bro. Rago at Salesian H.S. in Detroit.He was one
of the few teachers there who really cared about you.He truly was a
nice
guy.##imported-begin##Ralph Wiktor
rwik22@yahoo.com##imported-end##

January 28, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ As a graduate of Salesian High School, Detroit, Michigan 1963 I
fondly remember Brother Rago. He was a wonderful person,
teacher and religious community member. He will be sadly missed
by all that he touched in is special ways.##imported-begin##Terry
Parker tparker9570@comcast.net##imported-end##

January 28, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ To the family of Brother Jim, please accept my most heartfelt sorrow for the loss of Brother Jim. My high school years and all years after were successful because of the influence of Brother Jim. I was introduced to Brother Jim In 1962 at Salesian H.S. in Detroit, from that day forward (and I probably didn't realize it at the time) a path to a productive and successful future was being forged. I am but one of the tens of thousands of students that Brother Jim taught and inspired to do well. Brother Jim was always fair but firm. If you crossed him you were in line for a "Knuckle" to the top of the head and he knew exactly where to land the punch. What an all round wonderful man. My life truly is better because of Brother Jim Rago. May Brother Jims' soul and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace. Amen.

Dan Jendza Salesian H.S. class of 1966##imported-begin##Dan Jendza kdjendza@wowway.com##imported-end##

January 28, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ I graduated from Salesian High school in Detroit where Bro. Rago taught. I have fond memories of the days I spent in his religion class. His lessons helped us become responsible men. He was a great Guidance Counselor always had sound advice. RIP Bro. Rago.##imported-begin##Tom Marentette tmare415@gmail.com##imported-end##

January 28, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“Katie and I already deeply miss our good friend and cheerleader who came to all the Special Olympics swim practices to urge Katie to do her best. (Katie usually responded with a splash in his direction.) Over the past several years he rarely missed an opportunity to be there for Katie, and to keep me up to date on all the SFS activities. Lately I had taken to visiting him at Rosary Care Center on Mondays before class. There is already a big hole in my "schedule" and in my heart. What a great guy!
Unfortunately, we won't be in attendance on Tuesday because we leave at 3:15 for the Special Olympics Winter Games. Katie and I will take his spirit and laughter with us. We miss him and count it as a great pleasure to have known him. Future Special O swim practices will never be the same.
Barb & Katie Holdcroft###imported-begin###Barb & Katie Holdcroft###imported-end###

January 28, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“Br. Jim was one of the first Oblates I met at Childs, Md. in 1954 because I was white washing the pig pen! He was kind loving and funny then and later when he took some of us home to Wilmington I found out where he got his humor. His family was full of joy and his brother Fr. Joe Rago osfs has a champion punster. It was a joy later to be at Aquinas H.S. with Br. Jim and again to enjoy his company. He will be missed not only by you his brothers in St. Francis de Sales but by many people,###imported-begin###Andrew Dunn dat9du n@yahoo.com###imported-end###

January 28, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *Salesian High School - 1968*

I will always remember Brother Jim Rago as a kind, considerate, helpful man when I was growing up in high school. He was easy to talk to, and he guided me to be the teacher and man that I am today. Simply...he was inspirational and very memorable in my life.
Gary Kudron###imported-begin##Gary Kudron###imported-end##

January 28, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *I have the fondest memories of Brother Jim's smile and all of the kindness he showed not only to myself but my boys. He was a true treasure to many !###imported-begin##Cathy Trimble cathytr@bex.net###imported-end##*

January 28, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *Bro. Rago served as not only an educator but also as an inspirational mentor to many young, impressionable young men, myself included. As a proud graduate of Salesian High School in Detroit (66') I have many fond memories of my time spent there. I can also say that Br. Rago helped shape my life in more ways than one could imagine. His compassionate, warm yet firm way will be missed by all those whose life he touched. May he be with God.###imported-begin##Fred Parker fredparker@parkergruopinc.com###imported-end##*

January 28, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Family of Brother Rago,

I enjoyed working with Brother Rago for eleven years at Aquinas High School. He was the best person to work with the students they all loved him.

God Bless All

Gloria###imported-begin##Gloria Smith

gjsmith@umd.umich.edu###imported-end##

January 28, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *Brother Rago was a great guy and touched many lives over the years. He was always a favorite with both students and parents. He will be missed. Prayers and sympathy.###imported-begin##Terry Beurer beurer@michigan.gov###imported-end##*

January 28, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *I would like to wish the family of Bro. Rago condolences from our entire family. Not only was Bro. Rago a counselor for myself and my brother Jim at Southgate Aquinas, but a friend of the family and a fellow parishoner at St. Hugh Catholic Church. Bro. Rago was heavily involved in helping the students at Aquinas achieve their goals, and was often seen at athletic events cheering madly. He became friendly with our family through church celebratory dinners when we were well into our thirties, and always took an interest in our chosen carrers. We were saddened to hear of his passing, he will surely be missed by his friends in Michigan.*

Michael Craig, Aquinas 1983###imported-begin##Michael and James Craig###imported-end##

January 28, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *To Jim's family--*

Thanks for sharing this dear Brother with us! How well I remember the adventure of my trip to Wilmington with him, getting to meet and have some great times with you and truly feeling like one of the family. I'm sorry for your loss, but, ah, what memories. And what confidence we can maintain thanks to what Jesus has assured us is in store for those who believe.

Peace,

*Fr. Tom Helfrich###imported-begin##Fr. Tom Helfrich thefric@sienah
eights.edu###imported-end##*

January 28, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *Brother Jim was a delightful man to get to know. He was always cheerful and full of life. He certainly lived his Catholic faith with the dignity and love of St. Francis de Sales.###imported-begin##Janet S.
Helfrich###imported-end##*

January 28, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *Brother Rago was universally liked and loved by students at Salesian High School. He was energetic, intelligent and dedicated to the Oblates and his teaching profession. He was a good man, the likes of whom are scarce in today's society. He deserved to live the long life that he did.###imported-begin##Dr. Norman Novelty
sanevacla@bellsouth.net###imported-end##*

January 28, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ It was an honor to have known Bro. Jim from my years at Aquinas. His smile was contagious and his loving spirit infectious. He will be deeply missed but forever remembered! AHS 1989###imported-begin###Nicki Lovasz-Drinane###imported-end##

January 28, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ A caring guidance counselor who was always easy to talk to. Always a smile on his face.###imported-begin###John Sevestian JLS 313@SBCGlobal.Net###imported-end##

January 28, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ I loved Jim Rago and couldn't get to his funeral because I was preaching a parish Mission in Kentucky. At the Sunday masses where the gospel was the beatitudes from the beginning of the Sermon on the Mount, I used Brother Jim as an example of meekness, especially telling of his experiences in the St. Francis High School cafeteria. We remembered him that day. And then on Tuesday (the day of his funeral) the pastor said after the Mission, "You buried one of your brothers, today, right?" And then he led the congregation at the Mission in prayer for my beloved Brother Jimmy Rago. He was always one of my great supporters, especially in the Salesian spirituality ministry and as a member of the Province's continuing education committee. "Jimmy, I'm hopin' for your help now more than ever."###imported-begin###Fr. John Graden###imported-end##

January 28, 2011 at 12:00 AM