

ALUMNI NEWS

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Matthew F. Wojtaszek, Sr. Class of 1940

Matthew F. Wojtaszek, Sr., a proud Holy Trinity graduate from the Class of 1940, WWII Vet, and 89-year-old Chicagoan is quick to open up about his time at Holy Trinity and his time as a glider trooper in WWII.

Born on January 27, 1922, the youngest of three, Matt was raised on the north side of Chicago and came to Holy Trinity High School as a freshman in 1936. According to Matt, he chose HT because of his older brother whom he says, "loved the school and wanted me to attend with him." He recalls, humorously, that "at the time, it was an all-boys Polish school. Everyone was Polish, except that one boy who was Italian, but he had a Polish mother."

While attending HT, Matt earned some extra spending money by running a paper route. Every day after school he jumped on his bike and picked up the Polish papers that were to be delivered around the neighborhood. He recalls, "most of my friends were involved in sports and athletics, but I was different." This industrious attitude carried him forward as an HT student, and he graduated from HT in 1940. In the fall of 1940, he enrolled in the Art Institute of Chicago where he hoped to hone his skills and become an artist. Little did he know, his life was about to turn in a very different direction.

In 1942, after only two years at the Art Institute, Matt got the call that he had been drafted to the U.S. Army and would be stationed at Fort Sheridan, Illinois. Apprehensive but bold, he embarked on this journey. During his initial orientation with the Army, Matt showed promise, and he was sent to Fort Bragg, North Carolina where he would join the 82nd Airborne Division as a glider trooper. He explains:



"A glider trooper or as they used to call it, a flying coffin—was towed by a C-47 with fifteen soldiers sitting face to face with very little room. Once you reached the target, usually behind enemy lines, the pilot would cut the tow line and we would glide down. The benefit of this war tactic was you entered enemy territory as a whole unit, together working faster than the paratroopers who had to find their unit after they landed."

Matt courageously served his country for three years as a glider in several different countries, from Casablanca, Morocco to Berlin, Germany. He fought bravely in D-Day, and Normandy as well. For his valor, he was awarded two Bronze Stars and his Glider Wings. Finally, on November 19, 1945 at Camp McCoy in Wisconsin, he was honorably discharged.

After the Army, Matt joined the U.S. Postal Service where he worked for 44 years. He survives his wife and childhood sweetheart Bernice, and he has two children (Matthew F. Jr. and Margaret Mary) and four grandchildren (Christine, James, Steve and Mary). Matt's words of advice to current Holy Trinity students are to "challenge yourself, work hard, and always focus on the future."

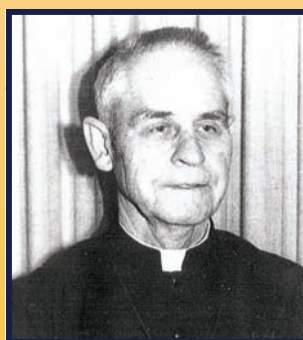


Matt Wojtaszek holds up his medals he received for his work as a Glider Trooper in WWII.

In Loving Memory

Br. Thaddeus (Karl) Gottemoller, C.S.C., the oldest Holy Cross Brother in the Midwest Province, died at the age of 99 on December 31, 2010, at Dujarie House, Notre Dame, just 5 months short of his 100th birthday. He was a revered high school science teacher for more than fifty years. Br. Thaddeus was born in Indianapolis, to John and Albina (Darlinghaus) Gottemoller in 1911. He was a graduate of Cathedral High School, Class of 1929. Influenced by the Brothers who taught him, he joined the Brothers of Holy Cross to begin his novitiate year and made his first profession in July 1931. He started his studies at the University of Notre Dame, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in 1935 after having made his final profession in 1934. In 1960 he joined the faculty at Holy Trinity High in Chicago, serving his longest tenure of teaching for 21 years until 1981.

Br. Thaddeus was not only a conscientious and innovative chemistry and math teacher, but exhibited those same qualities in every undertaking, whether assisting with the Associates of St. Joseph Organization, moderating the Mothers' Clubs, or heading the concession booths and the candy/drink machines in the high schools. He enjoyed teaching archery for many summers at the Day Camp of Gilmour Academy and organized competitive archery teams in the high schools. He was meticulous in maintaining the grounds of schools, ridding the lawns of any weeds and, even in his 80s, climbing on the roofs of buildings to remove debris. We join with the entire Holy Cross family in prayerfully mourning his loss.



Call for Nominations

The Athletic Hall of Fame Committee is seeking nominations for individuals or teams to induct into the Athletic Hall of Fame. Please visit our website for more information, or contact Chet Lis '58 at 847.816.8433.

SAVE THE DATES

GUARDIANS OF HOPE DINNER	ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME
Friday, March 18, 2011	Monday, June 6, 2011
6:00 p.m.—10 p.m.	Cafe la Cave at 6:00 p.m.
Hilton— Chicago	2777 Manheim Rd.
720 S. Michigan Ave.	Des Plaines, IL

IN MEMORY

Eugene F. Cyrek '60
Edward Kukula '58
Br. Anselm Mangano, OSB
Fred Nowak '61
Walter J. Witek Jr. '62



Alumni Christmas Party

On Saturday, December 4th, 168 alumni and friends came together for the Alumni Christmas Dinner and All Classes Reunion at Przybylo's White Eagle Banquets. With alumni from the 1940s to the 2000s in attendance, it was a wonderful celebration of Tiger Spirit. The Class of 1960 led the way, with 50 attendees for their 50th reunion. Special thanks to George Job '60 for organizing his class and Chet Lis '58 for making the evening such a special night for everyone. A special treat for the Class of 1960 was seeing former teachers, including Br. Ray Papenfuss and Pete Peters '53, an HT Trustee Emeritus. Thank you to all of our alumni attendees for your support.



Young Alumni Return to HT for Br. Philip Smith Reception!

On Tuesday, December 28th, 37 Holy Trinity young alumni came home to HT for a reunion with Br. Philip Smith, former HT president and teacher. Now teaching at Archbishop Hoban High School, our Holy Cross sister school in Akron, Ohio, Br. Phil was the guest of honor for this reception in the room bearing his name. Ranging from the classes of 1990 to the class of 2006, these young alumni were able to catch up with Br. Phil and their classmates, and hear about the great things happening at Holy Trinity. In his remarks, Br. Phil emphasized the importance of young alumni getting involved at Holy Trinity and giving back through opportunities such as the Young Alumni Centennial Initiative - a new effort to help young alumni shape the future of HT. Br. Phil reminded the alumni in attendance that "Holy Trinity is your school and it always will be."

