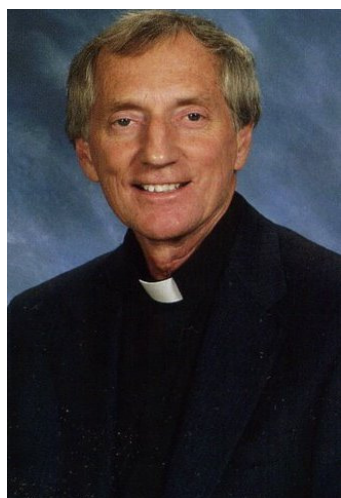


FATHER STEVE TOKARSKI, REST IN PEACE

DECEMBER 17, 1942 - OCTOBER 4, 2011

Father Steve,

It is with sad hearts that we let you go. We know you were a special priest, and did great things in your time spent serving the Lord. We



know you sat on boards and ran a parish and touched countless people in the all too short time you were with us on this earth. But it is not your greatness that we will miss, Father. We will miss your smile. We will miss how your eyes would light up when you talked about running. We

will miss you in the stands, at every game and every concert and every Christmas program. We will miss you on the end of the bench. We will miss the days when you ran with our cross-country team, not saying a word, just being with us, stride for stride – running just a bit more slowly so we could keep up.

We will miss you knowing us – each of us – in a way that made us feel like we mattered, even if we were only kids. We will miss you at the altar sharing the Eucharist with us, transforming a gymnasium full of students into a sacred space where God's living presence was all that we could see. We will miss your words, as you spoke to hundreds and yet spoke to each of us alone, old and young, as if there were only two people in the room. Two people, and one God.

We will miss your wisdom, how you could bring Jesus' words to us and through those words help us understand the inexplicable, things like failed tests, lost games, fights among friends, heart break, divorce, sickness – even death.

We will miss your inspiration. You

inspired us to serve, to forgive, to show kindness to those in need and to those we love. You inspired us to listen during mass, to listen with our hearts, and to hear.

We are a little lost without you right now, Father. We are still looking for you, for that strength and wisdom, that guiding light who was always there to show us the way. But we will let you go now, to be at peace and to live with our Lord eternally.

Your light will live on within each one of us, and we know you will be right here with us as we celebrate our triumphs and grieve our losses. We will still miss you, but most of all we will give up prayers of thanks that we have been so blessed as to know you, Father Steve. And in us your legacy will live on.

-The Students and Staff of Billings Catholic Schools

