



## Reverend Robert B. Kirtland

February 3, 2008

Robert B. Kirtland, a Roman Catholic Priest and writer, passed away Sunday February 3, 2008 at the St. Vincent Mercy Medical Center at age 78. Robert was born July 9, 1929 in Toledo, Ohio to Harry B. Kirtland and Norah (Redley) Kirtland. He was raised in the Old West End and spent many summers with his mother visiting family in the Boston area while his father managed his law practice and business interests. Robert became fluent in French through conversation with his mother and later mastered Latin and German as well. He became an avid student of history at a young age and maintained that interest throughout his life. After graduating from Central Catholic High School he attended Providence College in Rhode Island before entering the seminary. He studied at St. Meinard, St. Peter, and Mount St. Mary Seminaries before being ordained and celebrating his first mass at his childhood parish, Rosary Cathedral. Roberts' first parish assignment was at St. Joseph's Maumee, followed by Blessed Sacrament where he met his mentor, the late Msg. James J. O'Toole, and his longtime friend, the late Rev. Donald Hunter. After taking a doctorate in history from the University of Michigan with an emphasis in constitutional law, Father was appointed the catholic chaplain at the University of Toledo, where he forged enduring friendships with Cindy Bauer Rimmelin and Stephen Goldman. In addition to his work on behalf of the University Interfaith Council, Father formed a parish for students and faculty which later became known as Corpus Christi parish. Later parish assignments included St. Clements where he assisted his close

friend Rev. Jim Auth, and St. Rose in Perrysburg. At every parish he provided support and encouragement for serious students. He was noted throughout his career for his intellectual yet sensible and witty homilies. Father's diocesan work also included consultation regarding medical ethics issues for the catholic hospitals, and frequent contributions to the Catholic Chronicle. Father shared his impressive knowledge of English common law and constitutional history as an instructor at the University of Toledo College of Law. He used his knowledge of the law unsparingly to advocate for the city's poor who lacked adequate housing. Later in life he pursued his passion for writing as a wine columnist and restaurant critic for the Toledo Blade. Father's love of language and his wide range of intellectual interests made him a delightful conversationalist. His charm and wit will be missed by many, most notably his dear friends Cindy and Brock Rimmelin and their daughters Dodie, Mikey and Lizzie, and Stephen Goldman and Jackie Boney. Father was preceded in death by his parents and is survived by niece Sarah Kirtland. The Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated 10 AM Thursday at Blessed Sacrament Church by the Most Reverend Leonard P. Blair. The homilist will be the Reverend James E. Auth. Friends will be received from 2-8 PM Wednesday at the Ansberg-West Funeral Home, 3000 Sylvania Avenue as well as at Blessed Sacrament Church after 8:45 AM on Thursday.

# Tribute Wall

AA

“ Fr. Kirtland was a pleasure to have around the Law School. He always had a smile on his face. You had to listen fast to get everything he said, but it was always worth it. His break-neck speed masses at St. Rose will forever be remembered by those who attended 7 a.m. every morning. He will be missed by many.

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**Ann Elick - ann.elick@sbcglobal.net ann.elick@sbcglobal.net** - February 01, 2018 at 12:00 AM

PP

“ We were shocked to hear of your sudden passing out here in Arizona. You will forever be remembered for the self-confidence you worked so hard to instill in me, and the time you spent mentoring me into the woman I am today. You were one of the most intelligent men I have ever met. Your passing on my son's 8th birthday will keep your memory alive, as we celebrate your life and his birth every year.

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**Paula Pennypacker - paulapennypacker@aol.com paulapennypacker@aol.com**  
- February 01, 2018 at 12:00 AM

SR

“ Fr. Kirtland knew me as Sr. David Miriam, for he and I were at Blessed Sacrament parish at the same time. An incredibly intelligent person, I was amazed at someone whose speech surpassed mine in rapidity! I shall remember him as a dedicated priest, faithful to his calling. My condolences to his niece and all his friends.

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**Sister Rosalie Bulanda,O.P. - RosBulanda@aol.com RosBulanda@aol.com** -  
February 01, 2018 at 12:00 AM

SS

“ I will miss Bob so much. Throughout the years, he was there for me. He always had books to recommend and would listen to my struggles sympathetically. His influence on me is immeasurable. His love of this country and Ohio, of its history; how each generation made a contribution; how "all of life is lived everyday" and the call to service infected me and many others into the soul of our being. I pray that God holds him in the palm of His hands on this, the next part of his journey.

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**Sarah Kirtland - skirtland@verizon.net skirtland@verizon.net** - February 01, 2018 at 12:00 AM

AS

“ Father, You gave me my first Holy Communion in 1977, and let my brother Jonathan & me "serve" Masses in the T.U. (as we called it then) Union; we still have pictures of us at the altar. My heart is deeply sorrowful at your passing, but I am glad to have known you at such an early, formidable age. Thank you and may God keep you in the palm of His hand.

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**Aaron Schrein** - February 01, 2018 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ My children grew up listening to Fr. Kirkland in Bio. Chem lab. at TU. We continue to attend CCUP all these years later - thanks to Fr. Kirkland. He formed the vision of our Faith so many years ago. We spoke of him often and he will be sadly missed. He inspired our family to attend CCUP and we continue today to celebrate our Faith at CCUP.

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**Joan Coghlin Lynne Miller and Sue Coghlin - sww2727@yahoo.com sww2727@yahoo.com** - February 01, 2018 at 12:00 AM

EH

“ I was fortunate to have come to know this fine man when he was at St Clement. His wit and knowledge were unbeatable. He was open to all who approached him. The Catholic Diocese has lost one of it's best.

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**Ellie Heidelberg** - February 01, 2018 at 12:00 AM

MM

“ Father was my advisor for my final seminar paper at UT Law. Without his encouragement and insight, I might not have been able to graduate. Everyone who knew him was touched by his sharp wit and passion for history. A great man I was privileged to know.

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**Monica Zoltanski - mzkesq@hotmail.com** mzkesq@hotmail.com - February 01, 2018 at 12:00 AM

EC

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**Ellie Heidelberg (St Clement)** - February 01, 2018 at 12:00 AM

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**Ellei Heidelberg (St Clement)** - February 01, 2018 at 12:00 AM

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**Ellie Heidelberg (St Clement)** - February 01, 2018 at 12:00 AM

JW

“ We remember Father Kirkland as an amiable, quietly funny, true and thoughtful friend who on more than one occasion offered his compassion to assist one through troubling times.

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**Jack Cairns & Lois Wylie** - February 01, 2018 at 12:00 AM

TT

“ I know all is well with you, dear friend. You now have the answers to all those marvelous questions about the future life we discussed so earnestly, from High School through the years. You are closer now to all of us than you were among us in this life. Many happy times to remember. Happy forever to look forward to.

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**Tom Redding - tnredding@aol.com tnredding@aol.com** - February 01, 2018 at 12:00 AM

EH

“ The Diocese of Toledo lost one of it's finest. We are most grateful for the time we knew him at St Clement.

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BB

“ I worked for Fr. Kirtland as a receptionist at the Interfaith Center when I was a student at the U. R.K. as we called him, was among the first of adults outside my family to tell me I could accomplish anything. He really believed in me and consequently, I did too. Many have mentioned he had a rapid-fire way of talking. He had a rapid-fire way of listening too which caused me to learn how to organize my thoughts efficiently... a skill useful today, some 28 years later. I am happy to have known his close friends Cindy and Stephen, and happier still to know those friendships endured. I hope the joy of memories can provide some strength for them in the time ahead.

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**Barbara Durham (Hirsch) - [barbara.hirsch@mccann.com](mailto:barbara.hirsch@mccann.com)**

**[barbara.hirsch@mccann.com](mailto:barbara.hirsch@mccann.com) - February 01, 2018 at 12:00 AM**