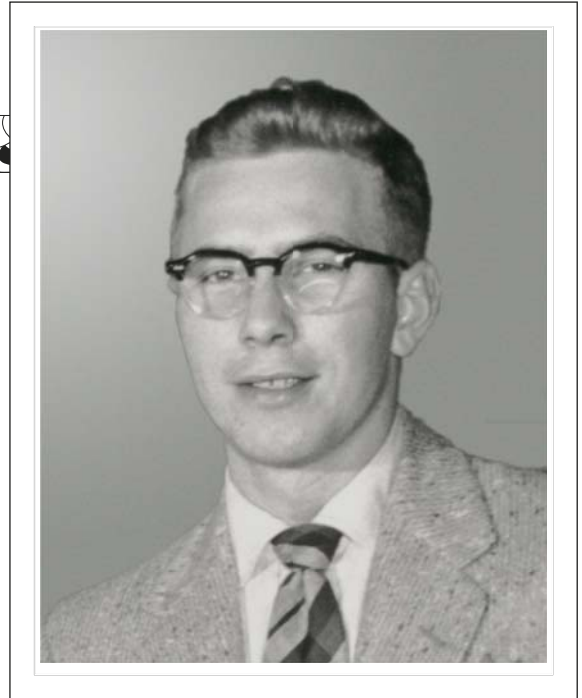




2010

Joseph S. Kroupa 1931-1991



Joseph Kroupa was a gentle and humble man of faith. His love for family, friends, church, and Catholic schools propelled him to a life of service. Wherever there was a need, Joe was there. No task was too large, no amount of time too long.

At St. Francis High School, Joe served early morning Mass, performed in the drama club, was a member of Our Lady's Sodality, and was elected president of his Junior class.

Joe was a gifted athlete. Making the St. Francis varsity basketball team as a Freshman, he played guard during their 1946 District championship. With his leadership skills and ability to inspire his teammates, Joe was named captain of the 1948-49 basketball team.

After graduation in 1949, Joe wasted no time in staying involved with St. Francis sports. He joined the first Athletic Association. In March 1951, Joe was one of the head chairmen on the committee to develop a football program. By September 1951, St. Francis fielded its first football team. Joe took great pride in seeing it grow into a renowned program and watching his nephews take part.

After serving two years with the Army in the Korean War, Joe returned home to serve the area youth. He encouraged them to always try their best. Joe coached 8th grade basketball at Immaculate Conception, St. Francis varsity baseball, and four years JV basketball. As American Legion

Post Commander, Joe was instrumental in starting the American Legion Junior baseball league.

The Kroupa home on East Ninth Street was always open to those in need. Joe's mother, Anna, provided love and extra room at their table for Sunday chicken dinners. In addition to his nieces and nephews, one of the young boys Joe guided was Tom Monaghan. In later years, after Tom's success with Domino's Pizza and the Detroit Tigers, he still enjoyed returning to Traverse City to visit his coach, mentor, and lifelong friend, Joe.

With his warm smile and kind, friendly way, Joe earned customer loyalty and respect during a 42 year sales career at Wilhelm's and six years at Hamilton's. The Traverse City business community called Joe a superb representative of the Catholic faith.

Without fanfare, Joe was a generous, benevolent giver in the building of the new schools and church. He spent endless hours on fundraisers, ushering with the Men's Club, organizing SFHS alumni basketball, selling "Buddy Poppies" to help wounded veterans, and decorating the graves of veterans with the American flag.

Joe was truly the Lord's salt of the earth and His good and faithful servant.