



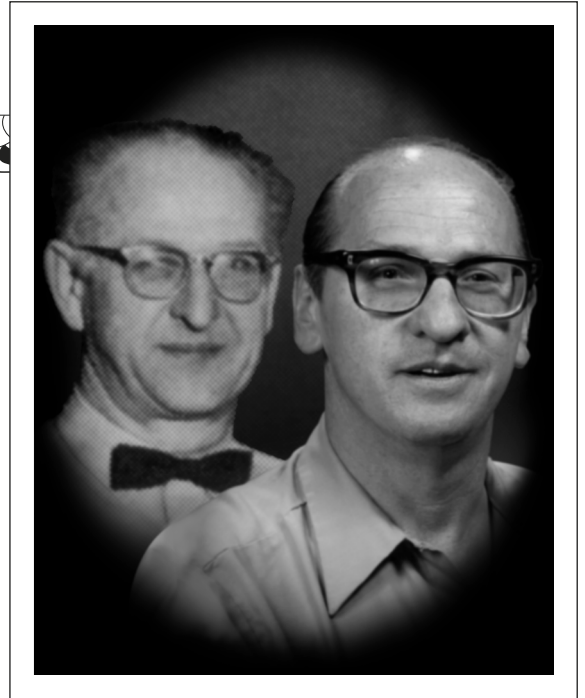
2008

## Anselm J. Mikowski

1904-1975

## Gerald J. Mikowski

1937-2003



Anselm "Dutch" Mikowski and his son, Jerry Mikowski, were icons of reliability for the Catholic schools for a combined total of 77 years. They exemplified the words "integrity, work ethic, dedication and faithfulness."

Born in Isadore, Anselm received his schooling at Holy Rosary. He began his custodial work at St. Francis in 1936 as caretaker of the church, school, rectory and Holy Angels Convent.

Those were the days of coal burning furnaces and shoveling snow by hand. From the well oiled wood floors to the ringing of the bells, Dutch always did his best. His wife, Mary, supported his long hard hours while she herself worked tirelessly on school, PTA and Altar Society activities. Their six sons graduated from St. Francis High School.

Dutch retired in 1969. The high school students dedicated the 1957 and 1975 yearbooks "to the man who has been our dear friend and helpmate." Once on the feast of St. Anselm, Father Wing's entire homily was, "We have a man here named Anselm. Imitate him."

Jerry Mikowski played Gladiator football and basketball, tutored other students in math, served as an acolyte and was a member of the Sodality of Our Lady. After graduating in 1956 from St. Francis, Jerry partnered with his father in the maintenance of the schools and parish.

Jerry excelled at performing tasks with persistence, taking pride in what he did. "Mr. Jerry" always took care of "his" students first. He became head custodian of GTACS. Jerry had the knowledge and skill to keep the mechanics of the buildings operable. When people came into the building they'd say, "Where's Jerry?" He was the one who made sure events ran smoothly. They would find Jerry with his sweat-soaked shirt, his ever present big ring of keys tugging at his pants and his black rimmed glasses shielding eyes that were always smiling. He worked endless hours, sacrificing time with his family. His wife, Patricia, and daughter worked in the latchkey program and his other four children graduated from St. Francis. Jerry retired in 1999 after 44 years of selfless service.

He was a member of the Knights of Columbus and St. Francis Men's Club. In 1988, when the Men's Club hosted a dinner in Jerry's honor, the Traverse City community filled the gym for this kind and caring man who always spoke kindly of others.

The Dominican Sisters said, "Jerry was always an inspiration. His work wasn't just a job – it was a vocation to him." At the celebration of their centennial Mass, they gave Jerry the honor of carrying the original cross from the Holy Angels Convent. It was in recognition of the many years he and his father, Anselm, so lovingly cared for the Sisters, the children and the church in their dedicated work as custodians for the Lord.