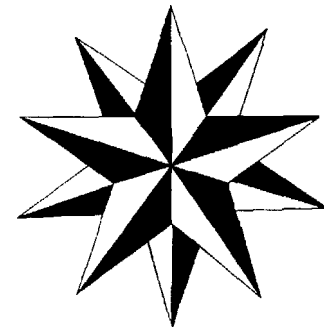


**A SHORT ACCOUNT**

**OF THE LIFE**

**OF**

**Brother Bernard Kinneavy, F.S.C.  
(John Patrick)  
1921-2001**



**SIGNUM FIDEI**

## TOUR OF DUTY

- 
- 1942 - St. Peter's College (New Iberia, LA)
  - 1944 - Cathedral High School (Lafayette, LA)
  - 1952 - Landry High School (Lake Charles, LA)
  - 1955 - Cathedral High School (Lafayette, LA)
  - 1956 - Spirituality Workshop, Feb. (Compton, Canada)
  - 1956 - Cathedral High School, Aug. (Lafayette, LA)
  - 1957 - Hanson High School, Director/Principal (Franklin, LA)
  - 1960 - Cathedral High School, Director/Principal (Lafayette, LA)
  - 1963 - St. Michael's College, Jan. (Santa Fe, N. M.)
  - 1964 - Mullen High School, Director/Principal-1968 (Denver, CO)
  - 1976 - Rummel High School, Director (Metairie, LA)
  - 1978 - Mullen High School, Director/Principal-1984 (Denver, CO)
  - 1984 - St. Thomas More, Director/Principal (Lafayette, LA)
  - 1985 - Mullen High School, Director/Principal (Denver, CO)
  - 1993 - Mullen High School, Director/President (Denver, CO)
  - 2000 - Mullen High School, Director/President Emeritus (Denver, CO)
  - 2001 - Died on November 2, 2001 (Denver, CO)

**Brother Bernard Kinneavy**  
**1921-2001**

On November 7, 2001, in Denver, Colorado, the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, with a seating capacity of 1500, was filled to overflowing. With the Archbishop officiating and 20 priests in the sanctuary, a celebration was about to begin. Celebrations have always held an important place in the life of the Catholic Church. On a daily basis and throughout the world, the Church gathers daily to celebrate, i.e., to remember. The term celebration usually refers to an event, such as a party, a banquet, or a parade that marks an occasion of great festivity and rejoicing. Every society celebrates days of memorial and thanksgiving that honor people, and days that honor achievements, days of hope, and days of new beginnings. It is a human instinct to rejoice in new life and new stages of life, and, even at life's end, to rejoice in the face of grief when life is well lived and well remembered. So, on that November day, civic leaders, students and their parents, administrators, faculty, staff, together with alumni of Mullen High School joined relatives of **Brother Bernard Kinneavy** to celebrate the life of a man who had become known as "**Mr. Mullen.**" **Brother Bernard Kinneavy, FSC** spent 34 years of his religious life as Director/Principal and/or President of Mullen High School in Denver, CO. On the evening of November 2, 2001, he passed away, following a brief illness, in Denver, CO. He was 80 years old and had been a De La Salle Christian Brother for 62 years. His life was a season of celebration for the many people whose hearts **Brother Bernard** had touched during his life.

**John Patrick Michael Kinneavy** was born on August 14, 1921, the son of **James Kinneavy** and the former **Theresa Peila**, both deceased. He is survived by two sisters, **Kathleen Kinneavy** of Denver, CO, and **Louise Mikes** of Arvada, CO; two brothers, **Clifford** and **Robert**, both of Denver, CO; and many nieces and nephews.

**Brother Bernard** entered the Juniorate of the Christian Brothers at Las Vegas, New Mexico, in 1935. He received the habit of the Brothers on March 18, 1939, and made final profession of vows

on August 15, 1946. During his educational career, he taught in seven Christian Brothers' schools in the New Orleans-Santa Fe Province. In the South, he served as Principal of Cathedral High School and St. Thomas More High School in Lafayette, LA, and Hanson High School in Franklin, LA. At the time of his death he was President Emeritus of J. K. Mullen School in Denver, CO.

**Brother Benedict Westrick** gives the following remembrance of Brother Bernard when they were Junior Novices:

**"There are probably not more than three or four of us left who might remember the incident which I would like to use to begin some remarks about Brother Bernard.**

**When we were all Junior Novices in Las Vegas, we used to go out every Thursday for an afternoon walk, and then at the end of each quarter we took a whole day off for a nice hike into the surrounding countryside. On this one day, it must have been early autumn, we hiked out to a place on the eastern plains from Vegas which we called Begosa Springs, a nice large spring out in the open countryside where we prepared lunch, played football for a while and then hiked back to Las Vegas for supper.**

**But on this day, while hiking back to school, we came across the carcass of a dead cow which had begun to decay and gave off the odor one would expect from such an item. But as we circled around the cow, a small puppy emerged from inside its belly and whimpered for some attention. Most of us hurried away from the dead animal and the puppy, but not John Pat. He immediately went over picked up the dog and cleaned it off as best he could, tucked it inside his jacket and wanted to bring it home! We all told him that that was stupid; that the dog was probably infected with all kinds of diseases; that he should not even pick it up etc... etc... But, no amount of common sense reasoning would**

change his mind. John Pat brought the dog home. The fact that it died several days later is another story.

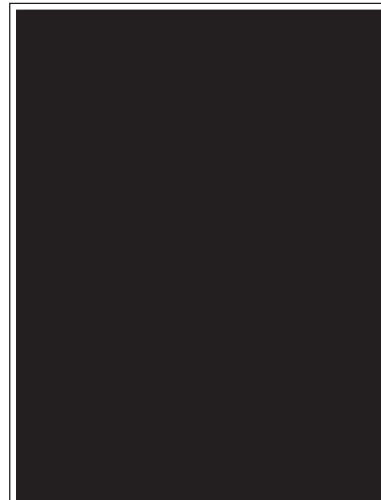
I tell this because I have thought about this incident occasionally during the course of the past 65 years (this would have happened in the fall of 1937 most likely), but more especially since Brother's death on November 2, 2001. I think it indicated something in Brother's innate nature which followed him throughout his life. I think even as a young man, John Pat followed his heart more than his head. I think one of the reasons he was so well thought of by so many friends was the fact that he naturally "felt for" other living beings, especially other human beings.

I believe this quality gave him a sort of head start in putting into practice the 'new commandment' which Christ gave His disciples and us: 'That you love one another as I have loved you.' To put it another way, I believe that came to him 'somewhat naturally.'

Having lived with Brother Bernard on a number of occasions during our teaching lifetimes, I know there were some people who got on his nerves; not an earth-shaking admission. But it seems that everyone, even those he may have had cause to criticize for some good reason, always felt that there was a basic good feeling on his part in their regard. I believe he had the rare power to 'love his neighbor,' even though he might have disliked him. Heart and head are sometimes at odds with each other, but in the long run it appears that the heart is the more potent force of the two; at least it seems that was the case with Brother Bernard."

**Brother Bernard** was a person who always wanted others to be happy, comfortable and to feel at home. The building of commu-

nity was something that was very important to him. **Brother Gregory Wright** gives the following remembrance:



*Brother Bernard - Cathedral Principal, 1960.*

"**Brother Bernard** and I were together in Lafayette at Cathedral High School in 1948-1949, at Landry High School in Lake Charles from 1952 to 1954, briefly in April-May 1956 at Kerwin High School in Galveston, and at the College of Santa Fe from January 1963 to May 1964. Also, as long as I was in Santa Fe, through August 1988, we often ran into each other.

In particular I remember my first year of teaching, 1948-1949. In many little ways Brother Bernard made me 'feel at home,' welcomed in the community. That was a big help during my first year in the classroom. I also enjoyed being with him in Lake Charles where he was a Brother who helped build community and made life pleasant for us, living and working together at times in a difficult situation. Also in Galveston, however briefly, he was helpful, as well as in Santa Fe. As you can see I have many pleasant memories of our years together. I think it is nice when you can remember a Brother in that way."

In 1957, **Brother Bernard** was named Director/Principal of Cathedral High School in Lafayette, LA. Over the next six years **Brother Bernard** left his stamp on the hearts of both students and parents connected with the school. During his time as Principal he was successful in getting a new residence built for the Brothers who taught at the Cathedral School. In 1963, he was

transferred to St. Michael's College, now the College of Santa Fe, in Santa Fe, New Mexico, where he was a teacher of English and a dormitory prefect. The young men at the college deeply appreciated his brotherly presence both in the dormitory and in the classroom. **Brother Louis Welker** who was a student of **Brother Bernard** at that times gives the following remembrance:

**“His was a happy presence! I can still see him riding on a float on St. Patrick’s Day and hear him singing at the party later that day. In the classroom he was very demanding, but at the same time affirming. He had the wonderful ability of bringing out the best in his students. I had him for English Composition I and II at St. Michael’s College. Brother encouraged me to write short stories, which I did, but I was always embarrassed when they were read to the class. Brother Bernard always taught the early morning classes, even though some nights he got very little sleep because he had to deal with student problems in his dormitory. I greatly admired his dedication to boarders at the College. In Brother Bernard the students always found a listening ear and a sympathetic heart.”**



***Brother Bernard and friends singing “When Irish Eyes Are Smiling” at a St. Patrick’s party.***

In 1964, **Brother Bernard** was assigned as a teacher at J.K. Mullen High School in Denver, CO. Finally, after 29 years he was back in Denver. His becoming Director/Principal at Mullen was a match made in heaven. In all, **Brother Bernard** spent 36 years at Mullen High School as Principal, Teacher, and President of the school. He was named Director/Principal of Mullen High School in 1968. During his first year as Principal he was responsible for carrying out two very important projects at Mullen. The first, was an extensive project on the football field. Lights and additional bleachers were added. This was necessary because Mullen had been accepted into the Will Rogers League. The second was a lay advisory board to help the Administration of the school. One of the functions of the board was to help with the finances of the school. During his time as Principal, **Brother Bernard** was able to bring the school operations to a success financially. In October of 1973, he conducted an emergency fund drive to help finance several school repairs. The drive proved to be very successful. In 1976, **Brother Bernard** completed eight years as Principal. The 1976 yearbook was dedicated to him with the following words:

**“In his twelve years here (he had been at Mullen for four years before being named principal), Brother Bernard has witnessed and has been responsible for a great deal of growth and achievement at Mullen. During those years, Mullen has employed modular scheduling, received accreditation from the North Central Association of Secondary Schools, acquired an airplane, restored the lake, introduced Activity Week, added the highly successful auction to the Mardi Gras Ball, supported well-equipped science labs and a growing theater department and sent basketball teams to State and speech teams to Nationals. With pride, gratitude and respect, this year book is dedicated to a man who is dedicated to Mullen---Brother Bernard Kinneavy.”**

The school year 1976-1977, saw **Brother Bernard** teaching English at Archbishop Rummel High School in Metairie, LA. The Brothers of the community asked **Brother Raphael Bodin, Visi-**

tor, to appoint **Brother Bernard** as Director of the community. The athletic teams at Rummel found in **Brother Bernard** a very supportive ally. **Brother Bernard** returned to Denver to serve as Director of Development and teach two classes of Senior English at J.K. Mullen High School. In 1984 he was again called on to serve as Director/Principal at Mullen.

In 1984, **Brother Bernard** was asked to serve for one year as Principal of St. Thomas More High School in Lafayette. **Brother Ephrem Hebert**, who was a member of the Brothers community that served in the school, gives the following insight into that assignment:

**“Due to conflicts between the school administration and the school board, it was deemed necessary to look for another Brother to serve as principal of the school. After asking one or two Brothers in the South, Brother Raphael turned to Denver and asked Brother Bernard Kinneavy. Brother Bernard was very happy with his work at Mullen, and at first asked that he not be considered. He finally agreed to go to St. Thomas More provided it would be for only one year.**

When he arrived in August, 1984, he was welcomed by all teachers, parents and students. All of the animosity and bickering of the past months were forgotten.



*Brother Bernard with a few members of the Denver Broncos in 1981.*

**Many of the students were children of his former pupils at Cathedral. He knew them all by name. His one year as Principal was marked by an excellent rapport with all concerned. Brother Bernard never raised his voice, but insisted on duty at all times. He was always present, always ready to listen to anyone who needed him. He was always kind and compassionate and ready to do a favor for anyone.”**

In August of 1985, **Brother Bernard** returned to Mullen High School to work on development and to teach several English classes. Again, in 1989, the school’s yearbook was dedicated to **Brother Bernard** to mark the fiftieth anniversary of his taking the religious habit of the Christian Brothers. The yearbook carried the following dedication:

**“On March 18, 1939, in Lafayette, Louisiana, a young Denverite formally began a half century of commitment to serving God and youth as a Christian Brother.**

**Of these fifty years, almost half have been right here at Mullen! With only two brief assignments elsewhere, Brother Bernard has devoted himself to the students and families of Mullen as a Teacher, Principal, Development Director, and Alumni Coordinator. It would be almost impossible to mention the name of any student who attended the school between 1965 and today who did not, in some personal way, come under the influence of this gentle, caring Christian Brother.**

**It is with deep felt gratitude for the cheerful, encouraging gift of himself to all of us that we dedicate this edition of HOOFBATS to ‘Mr. Mullen,’ Brother Bernard Kinneavy, F.S.C.”**

In 1989 for the first time in the history of Mullen High School, girls were admitted to the student body. Brother Bernard played a large

part in the decision for Mullen to go coeducational. Because of the closing of St. Mary's, the moving of Regis High School to the outskirts of Denver, and the increased enrollment by Mullen going coeducational, this was a wise move. In 1992, **Brother Donald Mouton, Visitor**, asked **Brother Bernard** to serve as Principal for one more year, during which time a Search Committee would be set up to find another Principal. The 1993-1994 school term opened with an innovation. For the first time in the history of Mullen High School, the Principal was a non-Christian Brother, Mr. Vincent Greco. **Brother Bernard** assumed the position of President of Mullen High School. He was primarily in charge of development and adding new buildings to hold the ever expanding student body. In January, 1994, a fund raising drive for the Mullen 2000 Campaign was initiated for the expansion and renovation of the school campus. Work on a new gymnasium and classroom building began in December. During the summer months a new and larger parking lot had been built. **Brother Bernard** continued to work hard at development and on January 16, 1998, the Rilko Events Center was dedicated. The building houses the St. John Baptist De La Salle Chapel, a combined cafeteria/auditorium, kitchen and stage.



**Ground breaking for the Rilko Center; Archbishop Chaput, Vincent Greco, Brother Bernard, Brother Donald Mouton and Sister Brendan Jordan.**

In his booklet, The History of Mullen High School, **Brother Bernard** referred to Mullen going coeducational and the development campaign years as Phase IV. He concludes his booklet with the words: "Phase IV of the history of Mullen continues, with both male and female students making up the student body." On November 2, 2001, Mullen High School began Phase V, life without **Brother Bernard**. Off and on over the last few years, he had been having heart and circulation problems. This really didn't incapacitate him, but slowed him down a little. He continued to attend athletic

events, lead communion services at the local parish, and bring communion to shut-ins. Because of poor health he resigned as President of Mullen High School. His health continued to deteriorate during the year and his passing has left a tremendous void in the hearts of all he had touched. The current Principal of Mullen High School, **Linda Brady**, gives the following remembrance:

**"He was known as 'Mr. Mullen' to thousands of current and former students of the high school. He is what Mullen High School is all about. The thing that impressed me the most was the wonderful caring and spiritual presence that he had about him. He managed to connect with thousands of students whom we've had through these doors for almost four decades. He especially had a knack for remembering people, remembering their names, and remembering things about them."**



**Brother Bernard and Brother Leo Burkhard outside the Brothers Residence in Denver, CO., in 1999.**

It was stated that **Brother Bernard's** life was a season of celebration. To celebrate is to "remember." Celebration is a human need. A life without celebration is no life at all. Not to remember, not to celebrate, leaves us devoid of something fundamentally human. **Brother Bernard** remembered on a daily basis, at the Eucharist, the mystery of our Catholic faith. He celebrated his heritage as a follower of **St. John Baptist De La Salle**, i.e., he touched hearts, was a man of great faith and extraordinary zeal.

Following religious services in Denver, CO., his body was brought to Lafayette, LA. for final services and burial. With family, friends,

and many of his religious Brothers gathered, **Brother Bernard** was laid to rest in the De La Salle Cemetery in Lafayette, LA., on Saturday, November 10, 2001.

Brother Louis Welker, Director  
De La Salle-Christian Brothers  
Lafayette, Louisiana



### Testimonial To Brother Bernard Kinneavy

As Provincial of the New Orleans-Santa Fe District, it is my privilege to welcome everyone here today to celebrate Brother Bernard's entrance into glory. It is a joy to see so many of you here today. Our condolences go out in a special way to the Kinneavy family.

We must establish first of all that today is a day of joy and celebration. There is no place for sadness. Bernard would not be pleased if we did anything else but rejoice with him. He loved a party; he loved the camaraderie; he loved a festive atmosphere; and he loved to sing. It didn't take any cajoling at all to get him to belt out his favorites.

Bernard will certainly be missed, especially at Mullen where he spent so many years of his life. As Teacher, Principal, and President, he knew every aspect of the school and all the people associated with it: students, faculty, staff, friends, and benefactors. It is a real tribute to him that the people of Denver who believed in him gave so much financially to build a wonderful physical plant on the property. So many of the new buildings are named after friends and benefactors who believed in Mullen because they believed in Bernard.

It was impossible not to like him. He enjoyed life and he let everyone know about it. He was always willing to go the extra mile and take the time to make people feel their worth. The students who got to know him realized that his was a heart of gold - that he believed in them. His many friends and relatives welcomed him into their homes and their hearts. And he in turn welcomed them into the Mullen community.

The most glowing comment I can make about him is simple: He was a Christian and he was a Brother. He was a high caliber religious. He was always on hand to lead the athletic teams in prayer before their games. For many months he daily brought Holy Communion to the Rilkos at their residence. Whenever the pastor of Holy Name Church was away, Bernard held a communion service for the parishioners. He read at the Masses, he hosted the Pastor for meals with the

**Mullen Brothers. He loved having the parents of the new students, in small groups, over to the Brothers' house.**

**The greatest legacy our Founder left us was the saying that as Brothers we should touch the hearts of those with whom we came into contact. Anyone who knew Bernard realized that this was his forte. We can't even begin to estimate how many hearts were touched by this man - probably tens of thousands.**

**While he spent the greater part of his career at Mullen in Denver, we must not forget that he labored among the Cajuns here in Louisiana. He spent time in New Iberia, Lake Charles, Franklin, and Lafayette. Again, he made many endearing friendships during those years.**

**He also spent time in Metairie at Rummel and as a college professor in Santa Fe. During those years he taught some of us present in this chapel today.**

**His influence in the District has been great and we count on him to continue watching over us from his new vantage point. We know that those Irish eyes of his will keep smiling on those he loved so much.**

**Whenever he stopped by Magnolia, he would make it a point to visit our cemetery to pray for some of his closest Brother friends: Big Steve Tessandier, Chief (Edmond Charbonnet), and Tom Kane to name a few. I suspect that now there will be many a visit by his friends to his grave site to say a prayer for him.**

**Thank you, Bernard, for all you have done for so many.**

**Eternal rest grant unto him O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace.**

**Brother Clarence Fioke, Visitor  
November 10, 2001**