



Brother Thomas Petite, F.M.S.

APR 3, 1945 - DEC 17, 2021



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Brother Thomas Petite, F.M.S.

APR 3, 1945 - DEC 17, 2021

Brother Thomas Petite, FMS, a member of the Marist Brothers of the Schools for 58 years, died on December 17, 2021, in Lawrence, MA after battling several medical complications.

Brother Tom was born in Camden, NJ. He became a postulant with the Marist Brothers in 1963 and entered the Marist Brothers Novitiate at Tyngsboro, MA in 1964. He professed first vows in 1965. After completing his religious and academic studies at Marist College, Poughkeepsie, New York, he began his ministry serving as a teacher at Marist High School in Eugene, OR. He also taught at Central Catholic in Wheeling WV (1969-72), Fr. Matignon HS in Cambridge, MA (91-93) and Malden Catholic HS in Malden, MA (93 -12). He served as a Dean at Central Catholic in Lawrence (1972-81) and was the Founder and Director of Lazarus House Ministries (83 – 93). He was a Pastoral Associate at St. Thomas the Apostle Parish in Peabody, MA (05 – 12) and Volunteered for several summers with the Missionaries of Charity in Calcutta, India.

He professed his final vows in 1970. He earned an MA Degree from the University of Notre Dame and an Honorary Doctorate from Merrimack College in N. Andover, MA.

Br. Tom is survived by his two sisters, Beth and MaryAnn and a brother, Philip.

A Funeral Mass for Brother Thomas will be celebrated on Wednesday, December 22, 2021 at 11:00 A.M. in St. Thomas the Apostle Church, 1 Margin St., Peabody, MA, 01960. Visitation will take place at the Church prior to the Mass starting at 10:30 A.M. Burial will take place on Thursday, December 23, 2021 at 11:30 A.M. at the Marist Brothers Cemetery, 1455 Broadway, Esopus, NY, 12429. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in Brother Tom's name to Lazarus House Ministries, 412 Hampshire St., Lawrence, MA, 01841. To send an online condolence or for more information, please go to www.breenfuneralhome.com.



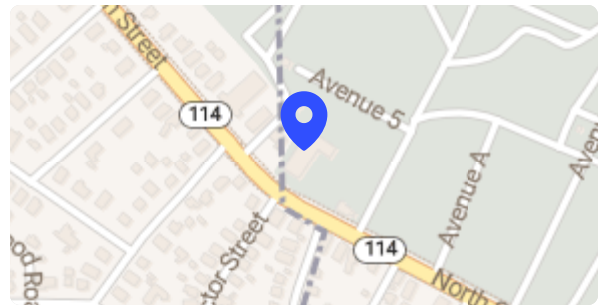
Events

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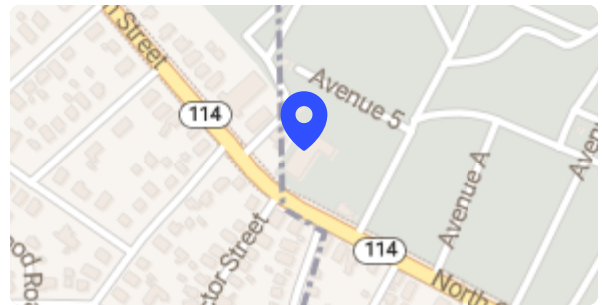
Visitation

- Wednesday**, December 22, 2021
- 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM ET
- Saint Thomas the Apostle Church**
1 Margin Street, Peabody MA 01960



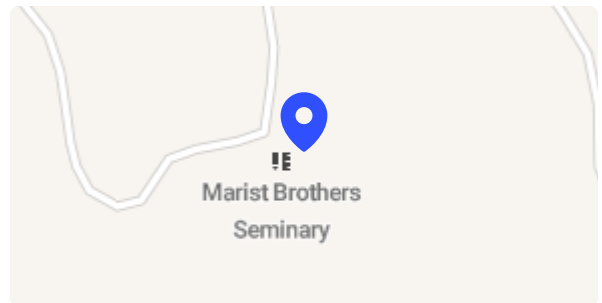
Funeral Mass

- Wednesday**, December 22, 2021
- 11:00 AM ET
- Saint Thomas the Apostle Church**
1 Margin Street, Peabody MA 01960



Burial

- Thursday**, December 23, 2021
- 11:30 AM ET
- Marist Brothers Cemetery**
1455 Broadway, Esopus NY 12429





Tribute Wall

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ID

Isaac Daigle posted:

Brother Petite was my theology teacher at Malden Catholic during my senior year in 2012. He was stern but we admittedly needed it at that age and level of maturity. He gave us a final thought before we went off to college and "into the world." It consisted of something along the lines of as time goes on it will become less popular and more difficult to be a Christian prepare yourself and put on the armor of God, take shelter in his refuge. At the time I scoffed, but this is feeling more and more relevant to me. Rest in Peace Brother Petite.

May 25 at 9:40 AM

BK

Brian Kane shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

Br. Tom and I volunteered with the Missionary Brothers of Charity (MC's) Calcutta India in July August 1977. He was such a wonderful man and friend. May he rest in Peace



February 2 at 2:04 AM

BL

Ben Lawson posted:

Brother Thomas was the greatest person and teacher. I knew him at Marist High School in Eugene, Oregon in the early seventies. He had the greatest sense of humor. One of my favorite teachers - and I only have three that fit the "favorite" description. He had a wonderful and positive influence on me. I miss him.

September 4 at 11:55 AM

MP

Maureen Puzan posted:

Tom was my cousin & friend! Shared so many memories in Somerdale, Lions Lake & Surf City. My parents & Toms parents had so many laughs & happy times. They shared a beautiful bond. Rest In Peace Tom. You were a wonderful friend when I needed one. I'll miss you. With love, Maureen & Darryl

July 10 at 5:18 PM



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MG

Martha Gale posted:

My dad, Horace Gale, met Brother Tom while they were both volunteering with the Brothers for Charity under Mother Teresa. Brother Tom inspired me to serve as a Board Member on the Lazarus House Board of Directors. He was an inspiration and a wonderful friend. May he rest in peace.
Martha Gale

February 3 at 9:45 AM

MP

Michael Paduchowski posted:

Brother Tom, There are way too many memories to share here. I will always remember you as CCHS Dean Of Discipline! I know I personally sat in front of you many times with green/pink slips...as much as I was late for work at Dad's store (Penn's Pharmacy), he always knew what happened before I even got there. I will remember you as a man of Peace, Brother, Serving with Mother Theresa and starting the Lazarus House many years ago. You gave so much to the poor community and your heart is now in God's hands. You will be missed Brother Tom. Rest with Theresa now. Michael J. Paduchowski CCHS, Class of 1980

January 27 at 5:57 AM

MK

Mike Korbey posted:

"In My Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you." John 14:2 Dear Beth, MaryAnn, and Philip--I was shocked and profoundly saddened when a close friend informed me that Bro. Tom had passed away. We just had a long conversation about three weeks ago and he sounded great! During our talk we reminisced about a lot of things. One was the time he took a number of us to Wheeling, WVA, to see and work with the very poor at the Catholic Charities Neighborhood Center (still going strong!). We recalled the two amazing nuns who ran the place and some of the folks we helped. Bro. Tom remembered it all and laughed with joy. Bro. Tom and I talked about politics and world events, too, including what the Marist brothers were doing in the Middle East. He especially enjoyed my stories about how Washington is really run and about our "dear leaders." This always produced sharp comments from him as well as that hearty laugh. Bro. Tom was also so proud of what Central Catholic had become. He constantly praised Principal Chris Sullivan and the leadership team. Then there was Lazarus House, the place he founded. He could not believe how it had grown and the tremendous good it was doing. Likewise, he was quite proud and had words of high praise for all the leaders, workers, and volunteers who made it happen. Bro. Tom was a truly remarkable man. So many of us are thankful beyond measure that he was in our lives. He was an extraordinary teacher, incredible mentor, wonderful friend, and one overflowing with compassion and love for the poor, forgotten, and dispossessed. We will never forget Bro. Tom and everything he did for us and what he taught us. May His Memory Be Eternal. With deepest sympathy, Mike Korbey Fairfax, Virginia CCHS Class of 1974

December 24 at 7:09 AM



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Bill Head posted:

I agree he was tough yet fair! I wasn't close to him but went to CCHS and Graduated in 1980. Had a few scrapes with him. I remember the summer he went to India to work with Mother Theresa. Many times following that he would remind us of how good we had it here in the USA. Being the selfish teenager I was I would roll my eyes. But people like him and all the Marist Brothers at CCHS never gave up on us!! Today my wife are deeply involved with St. Vincent De Paul at our Parish here in AZ. When dealing with the homeless many times I remember Brother Tom. A funny story to leave with. Many years ago I bought a couple of Turkeys and donated them to Lazarus House. I told the receptionist that I knew Brother Tom and went to CCHS. She urged me to not be anonymous since Brother Tom liked to know when graduates donated. So I wrote the following on the donation card : "Brother Tom please accept this donation. In regards to the detention you assigned me in 1979, all is forgiven!!" (With a drawn smiley face 😊). Prayers!!!

December 23 at 4:06 PM



Joe Lynch posted:

Rest In Peace Brother!! met Brother Tom via my sons at MC, he was one of the finest and most special people I have ever met. In 1999 I was stricken with cancer, as I lay in MGH it was touch and go, I was blessed with a cavalcade of MC's finest to pray with me One particular evening Brother Tom and Father Burton came through the door, Brothers smile was a welcome sight, yes there were prayers, there were a few tears, but oh the laughter was moving. I cherish the memories of his company My condolences to the family. Joe Lynch Dracut

December 23 at 3:21 AM



Richard Orluk February 27 at 5:01 AM

Brother Tom was my senior theology teacher at Malden Catholic in 2003. He kept the windows open all winter long to keep us awake with a touch of frostbite. He was genuine and could read us well. Reaching everyone on their level. I spent a day at Lazarus house to see what he accomplished. It was so impressive. He asked that I consider the priesthood. I instead went a different direction. Have a large family and work in the mental health field. I don't think I could do any other type of work. There are those with tremendous needs and we can all find a spot to shine some love. Though remembering as he said "to be a Christian does not mean be stupid." He reminded us to not be the passive Christian. But rather the radical one who shows kindness and stands up for what is just in all areas of life.



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SH

Stephen Hewett posted:

A strong man who kept the students in their best behavior. Thank you for all your hard work and helping the homeless

December 20 at 4:57 PM

SM

Sr. Maureen lit a candle in honor of Brother.



December 20 at 6:53 AM

JH

Jean Haley December 20 at 12:57 PM

You have been a great friend and will be missed.

JC

John Cuneo posted:

Thank you, Brother Tom, for founding and developing Lazarus House in Lawrence, for helping and caring for the homeless and the poor throughout Lawrence and the lower Merrimack River valley, and for challenging residents to do more to help those less fortunate. The story is told and I believe it that Brother Tom asked that we give not just or only the underused blankets, but that we think about and give the new ones that were going to replace the ones we were donating. Wishing you a safe and carefree journey to your next adventure! Thanks also to Brother Tom's family and friends for Tom being there in our lives. JC, Haverhill, MA

December 20 at 5:54 AM



Brian Kane shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

February 2 at 2:04 AM



Br. Tom and Brian Kane Australia volunteering with the Brothers of Charity Calcutta India Aug 1977



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Brother by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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