

In Memoriam | Brother Frederick R. Codair, C.F.X. (Brother Cahil)

Few teachers have influenced their students as has Brother Fred Codair. Many of us met him as Brother Cahil in 1958 when he first started teaching at Xaverian High School in Brooklyn. Seen through the eyes of fourteen year olds, Brother Cahil was an imposing figure who commanded the attention of the forty or so freshmen in his Latin class. The students soon recognized that they were the beneficiaries of a highly talented teacher. Fred knew the secrets of outstanding teaching. He engaged his students in learning with his enthusiasm, his humor and his fast pace of instruction. Fred was jovial by disposition. Gifted with a keen perception of the individual, Fred built a rapport with his students that benefitted their learning. Fred made a dead language come alive. Fred enjoyed life. He enjoyed teaching Latin. He enjoyed his students. His students enjoyed him. They loved him. Fred gave his students a strong foundation in Latin. While his class was always fun and full of life, the students were held accountable. All Fred has to do to keep us on track was to raise an eyebrow.

Fred was born in Beverly, Massachusetts on March 7, 1934 to Emil and Frances Codair. He is survived by his brother, Richard, and sister-in-law, Lois. Fred graduated from Saint John's Preparatory School, in Danvers in 1952 and entered the Congregation of Xaverian Brothers on September 19th of the same year. After first profession of vows, Fred went to Xaverian College in Silver Spring, Maryland where he earned his BA in Latin and Greek from the Catholic University of America in 1958. For the next forty years, Fred was engaged in high school education both in the United States and England.

As mentioned earlier, Fred started his teaching ministry at Xaverian High School in Brooklyn. He then taught at St. John's, Shrewsbury, MA before heading to Manchester, England in 1963 where he taught at Xaverian College for four years. Upon his return to the States, Fred taught for a brief time at St. John's Prep. Then, beginning in 1971, Fred would spend nine years at Malden Catholic serving first as Librarian, having earned his MLS from Catholic University, and then as Headmaster from 1977-1980. From 1980 to 1998 Fred served as librarian at Bishop Fenwick High School in Peabody, MA. Throughout his educational ministry, Fred's love of life was contagious.

A lifelong learner, he studied at St. Ann's College in Oxford. Fred spent time in Paris studying French. Gifted with a very sharp intellect, Fred's fields of interest

were many: theology, spirituality, language, the history of our Congregation and computers, to mention a few.

Fred would encounter a number of challenges throughout his life. Most dealt with his weight and its negative effect on his health. Through all the efforts to control his weight, Fred maintained his positive attitude. He was truly a model of faith and perseverance.

At time you will discover that
God's ways are not your ways.
And God's thought are not your thoughts.
When this happened, try to surrender yourself trustingly
Into the arms of your Father,
Who know you,
Understands you,
And loves you.
Perhaps you can repeat
With your Founder
This simple prayer
Which he cherished.

*O Lord, I cannot understand your ways,
But I must adore them.*

As someone whose life was first touched by Fred sixty years ago as one of his students, I am grateful for his influence on my life. Fred embodied the trust and resignation found in the above excerpt from our ***Fundamental Principles***.

Magister meus, gratias ago tibi.

May Fred enjoy the peace of Christ.