

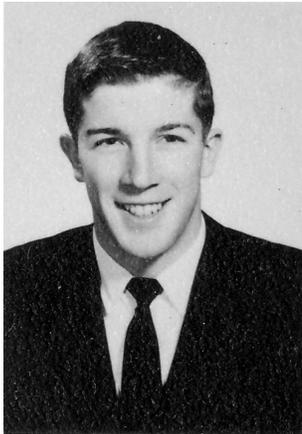


*Jerrold Kennedy*  
*Class President*

## Eulogy for Jerry Kennedy

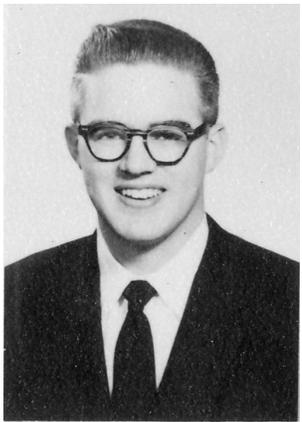
By **Brian Cahill**

Jerry and I had a friendship and connection from our first days together in September of 1954 at St Josephs in Mountain View. At first I did not understand the connection. He was from Oakland and I was from San Francisco. He had nine siblings and I had one. And worst of all, he wasn't really into sports. But we were definitely friends and over the years I came to see what all of you saw, that **Jerry Kennedy** was a remarkable human being, loving and sensitive, smart but unassuming, understanding the importance and the grace of friendships.



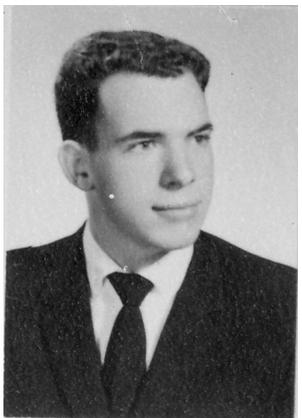
*Brian Cahill*  
*Athletic Manager*

As **Rich Laveroni** has written so beautifully, Jerry kept his classmates close and connected, reminding us how grateful we should be for each other. **John Van Hagen** has been the scheduler and Jerry has been the glue over these last few years for our every other month "old guys" lunch where we sit around all afternoon discussing our health, our families, politics, sports, and of course what is wrong with our Church. As Rich said, we will keep gathering, but it won't be the same.



*Richard Laveroni*

I think Jerry took a similar approach to his priesthood. It was all about the people, all about relationships, all about service, all about Jesus' message of love and inclusiveness. Bob Nixon wrote, "Jerry bent to love over law." And while we know he was less than excited about the current leadership and direction of our Church, that never weakened his love of Church, it never lessened his trust in the Holy Spirit, and it never diminished his commitment to serving the people of God. And Jerry never needed trumpets. His was more the style of Micah, "to love mercy and walk humbly with God."



*John Van Hagen*

Jerry's love and friendship and ministry have been a huge part of my life in recent years. He preached the homily at my son's funeral, a message that consoles me every time I get it out and read it. Donna and I had Jerry for dinner a few nights before Christmas, just the three of us. I will treasure that night. He missed New Years Eve at our regular gathering at Joe and Diane

Harrington's because he wasn't feeling good. I talked to him on New Year's Day and he said he was better. And then he was gone.

CS Lewis, in writing about the death of his wife, points out that religion, even for believers, is not an immediate source of comfort when there is a great loss. "Talk to me about the truth of religion and I'll listen gladly. Talk to me about the duty of religion and I'll listen submissively. But don't come talking to me about the consolations of religion, or I shall suspect that you don't understand." I know firsthand that faith and grace are no immediate felt comfort at the time of great loss. But I have learned over time that they can be. My prayer for all you Kennedy family members, who now have suffered two great losses, is that faith and grace, if not present now, will find their way to you.

I didn't know when Jerry had dinner with us before Christmas, that it would be the last time we would see him. As he left, I hugged him and I told him I loved him. I'm really glad I told him that.

### **Brian Cahill, R'60**

A Vigil of Prayer for Rev. Jerry Kennedy  
Wednesday, January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2013  
Saint Philip Neri Catholic Church



Photographs taken from the St. Joseph's College graduation collection, R' 1960