



Bro. Donald J. Dixon S.J.

April 3, 1925 - December 27, 2016

Br. Donald J. Dixon, S.J., a cook, artist and dedicated servant at Gonzaga High School, dies at 91.

Brother Donald J. Dixon, S.J., was born in Washington, DC on April 3, 1925. He entered the Society of Jesus at the Novitiate of St. Isaac Jogues in Wernersville, PA in 1950 and took his final vows as a Jesuit Brother in August of 1960. Upon entering the Jesuits, Br. Dixon was a cook at the Novitiate in Wernersville and then at Woodstock College. In 1958, he spent a year as the assistant treasurer at the Loyola Retreat House in Falkner, MD, before moving to Gonzaga High School in Washington, DC, where he would spend 20 years as the refectorian, assistant to the minister and subminister. In 1979, he started three years of study at the Corcoran School of Art, and then became a teacher of art therapy at the J.B. Johnson Nursing Home in Washington, DC. In 1997, Br. Dixon returned to Gonzaga High School as guestmaster and then to Georgetown University in 2004 as sacristan. In 2011, Br. Dixon moved to Manresa Hall in Philadelphia to pray for the Church and the Society of Jesus. He died on December 27, 2016 at the age of 91. Reverend clergy, religious, relatives and friends are invited to his Funeral Mass at 11 a.m. on Thursday, December 29, 2016 in Manresa Hall, 261 City Ave., Merion Station, PA 19066. A wake service will be held in the Manresa Hall Sunroom from 9 to 10:45 a.m. Burial will be at the Jesuit Cemetery, Wernersville, PA on Tuesday, January 3, 2017. Condolences may be sent to www.dinanfuneralhome.com

Cemetery Details

Jesuit Cemetery

Wernersville, PA

Tribute Wall

TI

“ I remember Bro. Dixon well from when he helped a bunch of us uninformed kids in the Gonzaga HS Class of '66 with weightlifting. He saw we were interested and was very kind and helpful. The first time I saw an "Olympic" weight lifting bar, other than in a picture, were ones he procured for us to use at Gonzaga. I have very great memories of him for his kindness to us way back in the mid 1960's.
Tony Interdonato

Tony Interdonato - January 29, 2017 at 04:21 PM

RS

“ I was privileged to know Brother Don Dixon as a devoted and gracious teacher, and humble servant of Jesus Christ.

Brother Dixon is fondly remembered as a mentor to many fortunate students at Gonzaga College High School during the 1960s and 1970s for founding and nurturing the Weightlifting Club. He was most generous with his knowledge, time, boundless energy and spirit, and had numerous connections in the Olympic weightlifting milieu (Brother Dixon was an accomplished lifter, with friends such as Bob Hoffman - former U.S. Olympic coach and founder of York Barbell company). Brother Dixon almost single-handedly equipped our club with York barbells and other state-of-the-art fitness training equipment; providing quarters for the training in a large storage room in the basement of adjacent Notre Dame Academy. At the time, we had the best (maybe the only) high-school weight-training facility in the DC area. His tutelage in fitness training benefited my life and many others.

His temperate personality and kindness were exemplary.

*Robert Spaniol
Gonzaga '70*

Robert Spaniol - January 16, 2017 at 03:35 PM

JS

I concur totally with remarks by Robert Spaniol. Br Dixon was a true inspiration to me and my class of 66 mates who learned firsthand the sport of weightlifting. I think it was by chance that we encountered this genuinely quiet man. I even convinced him to join me my freshman year at St Vincent College when I helped to found a weightlifting club. He was my first guest speaker and wowed all of us. My only regret is that I did not reengage with Br Dixon.

Jim Scott - January 27, 2017 at 09:21 AM