

## **TESTIMONIAL**

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It is with great fondness that I, Sister Tess Wysolmerski, pen these words and bid a fond farewell to a benevolent SUPERMAN.

God needed an educator, a researcher, a philosopher, a family lover, a people concierge and a "jack of all trades" in heaven and He called for Dr. Mark Ylvisaker, Ph.D. It has been some time now when on Saturday, May 23, 2009, God touched all our hearts and took Dr. Mark Ylvisaker to His eternal home. Mark's tenure at The College of Saint Rose has come to an end, but his charisma will be with us always and we will never forget him. Though he will not be officially on our campus roster we will continue to see the results of his presence here at St. Rose. Indeed, He has graced our lives and has made a lifetime connection to us!

A great proverbial cliché says 'all good things must come to an end', and this is one of those times that we see the truth in that. Mark was gift to us...and he also gave us gifts. Not like gifts which we hold in our hand, rather, his gifts were gifts of talent, commitment, energy, achievements, which we, the Saint Rose family, hold in our hearts as his lasting legacy to us.

I knew Mark as a colleague and our interests were quite similar, science and the arts. We had a consistent, yet, diverse relationship. He came to me early in his Saint Rose career and asked me to scout out books for him on varied biological topics. He told me he was writing his Christmas family letter. The first time he asked me for sources,...his topic was earthworms. I thought "Who is this strange professor who writes to his family using earthworms as his theme?" Later I read the letter...not even earthworms would recognize the glory he gave them. There were many other requests after that and I always looked forward to reading the letters centered around these strange themes. I got to know Mark better and more personally as years passed. He presented colloquia to my science majors and wrapped them into his heart by the time he finished speaking to them. So many of us were wrapped into his heart.

When I think of Mark Ylvisaker, I think inevitably of such men as Goethe and Aristotle. For in Mark, there was that rich, incomparable blend of intelligence and character, of colossal knowledge and high adventurousness, of instinctive honest and

indomitable courage which appears in mankind only once in a blue moon. Mark Ylvisaker, yes...he will be physically greatly missed...but his inimitable legacy of GENTLE person, GIFTED professional, DEVOTED family guardian and KINDHEARTED friend will consume us forever. We salute him and thank him for good fellowship...for **INNOVATIVE** vision, **ARDENT** integrity, **COMPREHENSIVE** STEADFAST courage, understanding, LUCID power of articulation, RESOLUTE loyalty and MATCHLESS profundity of character.

May his gentle soul rest in the peace he so rightly deserves.

Sister Tess Wysolmerski, csj Ph.D.