

WHAT FOLLOWS IS A  
HANDWRITTEN TRANSCRIPTION OF  
THE EULOGY FOR WILLIAM "BILLY"  
[REDACTED] GIVEN BY MIKE S.

AT BILLY'S MEMORIAL SERVICE  
HERE AT THE PRISON.

REST IN PIECE BILLY!

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"To have faith is to be sure of the things we hope for, to be certain of the things we cannot see. It was by their faith that people of ancient times won God's approval. It is by faith that we understand that the universe was created by God's word, so that what can be seen was made out of what cannot be seen." (Heb 11:1-3)

Billy's legacy isn't Winter Hill. It is not what

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Overzealous reporters will write about or where he spent the last 20+ years of his life. Billy's legacy is what cannot be seen by those on the fringes of our society. A society of men and women bound together by one man. A man whose impact on the lives of those around him, can be seen by the generations who will follow.

His legacy is the blessings that God bestowed on him that allowed him to have the

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impact that he did.

The blessing of a beautiful wife, who together, became one of the greatest love stories of our generation. Anyone who met one, was sure to hear about the other!

Their love transcended every obstacle that was placed in their path; every mile that separated them; and every hindrance that had to be overcome — they did it together and was made all the stronger because of it.

That love manifested

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itself into another blessing; one that will carry his legacy far into the future — their children.

"Of all the things", he once told me as he pointed to a family photo on the wall, "that's my legacy!"

He would stare at that picture, as it showed off three generations of the Barnoski brood. And in that way that only Billy could pull off, he'd tap the photo and say, "my little thing created all that."

He was the theme of Holly's School Project entitled, "The person I most admire ..."; the focal point as Tara prepared to enter the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony; the toughness displayed as Brandie knocked-out many of smart ass school boys; the intellect of Susie or the Never give-up spirit of Rosie. And at its most sublime, the inspiration for baby Liam's name. His legacy had no bounds... nor did it have restrictions.

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His faith in God, and his very Personal relationship with Him, allowed Billy, the opportunity to spread God's word and build the Catholic Community — wherever he was! whether it was inviting men to encounter a cursillo weekend or just come to a service. Billy, always made the opportunity to extend an invitation; to increase the flock or provide that missing piece that helped to bind a troubled soul. He stood up at baptisms and

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Sponsored Catechumen. Said, "Yes" to serve as Eucharistic minister and never wavered in the responsibility as a lector.

But arguably one of his greatest blessings is the gift God gave him; that without it, none of this would be possible, and that is his legacy as a teacher. or as he so aptly described, "his job of being a pain in the ass!"

They say a teacher effects all eternity because



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you never know when their influence ends. To me, that is his greatest legacy. His presence won't be missed because he had a hand in all we do, father, he will be missed because his guidance was needed in all we do. That voice of assurance and stability, which taught us all how to be better than ourselves.

I love you Papa. Thank you for the blessing of a family and I'm blessed to carry out your legacy.