



## Jude Highberger

December 4, 1932 - January 10, 2021

Jude Franklin Delano Highberger, 88, died at home January 10, 2021, in Topeka, Kansas.

Jude was born to Paul N. and Lydia Gifford Highberger on December 4, 1932, in Westphalia, Kansas, and raised in Wichita, Kansas.

Jude entered St. Benedict Abbey, Atchison, Kansas, in 1956. He was involved in pastoral ministry throughout his life. He taught and coached at Maur Hill-Mount St. Scholastica Prep School in Atchison from 1960-1975, served as a missionary in Brazil from 1975-1978, and was campus minister at Benedictine College from 1978-1984. Jude attended Sacred Heart Seminary, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and was ordained in 1988, serving parishes in Kansas City until 1992, when he began his chaplaincy ministry in hospital, hospice, and nursing facilities in Topeka.

Jude married Sharon Montgomery Ries at St. Mary's Church, St. Benedict, Kansas, in May 1998; she survives. He is also survived by stepchildren, Janene Falley and Eric Ries; step-granddaughters, Jossie, Cadance and Michaela; and multiple beloved Highberger nieces and nephews in Kansas, Oklahoma, and Colorado. Jude was preceded in death by five siblings.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Grace Episcopal

Cathedral's Saturday Lunch Ministry or Mount St. Scholastica Monastery in Atchison, where Jude was an active oblate, and sent in care of Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home, 2801 SW Urish Road, Topeka KS 66614.

Due to the pandemic, there will be no service at this time. His graveside service will be later in the spring. For Jude's full obituary, please visit [www.kevinbrennanfamily.com](http://www.kevinbrennanfamily.com).

# Tribute Wall



“ *Jude Highberger*

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January 28, 2023 at 12:08 PM



“ *Sharon,  
I am so sorry to hear of you and your family's loss of Jude. May the love and memories you shared help to heal you in the days to come. He is at rest now with our Lord and Savior.*

*Mary Hinman LeGresley*

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**Mary Hinman LeGresley** - January 18, 2021 at 05:54 PM



“ *Condolences to family and friends. I know that he had many many friends. He helped with my Uncle when he needed it the most. What an amazing experience to be in the presence of Jude, his energy is like none other. May his angel be able to help us now. He will be missed but just remember his vibrant yet calm energy and he will be with you.*

*Peace, MarySusan Clement*

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**Mary Susan** - January 18, 2021 at 01:46 AM

JH

“ Brother Jude Highberger, Maur Hill High School, Atchison, Kansas. 1960 - 1964. His fingerprints are indelibly present in my psyche as I recount the care, respect, and honor he gave to myself and all the Raven students. Identity's search runs for a lifetime. And in identity's beginning with adolescents, Brother Jude was both an educator and knowing mentor to all in his charges as they tussled with life. Thank you Brother Jude. Blessings rich. John F. Head

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**John F. Head** - January 17, 2021 at 08:58 PM

TB

“ Sharon, I will pray for him and you.

*tsbradley614@outlook.com*

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**tom bradley** - January 16, 2021 at 02:20 PM

MW

“ Sharon  
Jude was a coworker but more than that he was my friend, a mentor, and an inspiration. His kindness and companionship for so many at Oakley Place was a blessing. I'm so sorry for your loss. Your in my thoughts and prayers.

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**mandy wales** - January 16, 2021 at 11:35 AM

RS

“ Sharon, I am so sorry to hear of Jude's death. I just knew him through Church but he seemed to be a wonderful man. My thoughts and prayers are with you.

*Roberta Stadler*

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**Roberta I Stadler** - January 15, 2021 at 08:41 PM

KP

“ Sharon,

*I am so sorry for your loss! It's been a long time since we graduated from Hayden and I'm sad about all the people I've lost touch with over these 50+ years. After I got married and moved away from Topeka, you and my mother became friends and she spoke of you often. My deepest sympathies to you and your family.*

*Kelly (Stein) Pratt*

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**Kelly Pratt** - January 15, 2021 at 03:41 PM

DH

“ Sharon,

*Although we have never met I don't have to tell you how special Jude was. I met him when he was working at Hospice. He visited my dad in Osage till he died, and then performed a graveside eulogy. 6 months later just out of a whim he called me to see how my mother and myself were doing(not knowing my mom had died 10 minutes prior). He rushed right over to Stormont to console my family in the ICU. It has been 12 years now and I have kept a picture of Jude with my parents in my living room. As a nurse I know you only meet a person like this very rarely that has the gift to heal the soul. He spoke of you and how much you changed his life. God bless you and your family in this challenging time. Rest In Peace Jude!!❤️*

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**Debbie Heaney** - January 15, 2021 at 12:00 AM

NJ

“ Dear Sharon, I was saddened when our mutual friend called me to tell me of Jude’s death. He was a delightful, bright, caring, insightful man with a wonderful sense of humor and a twinkle in his eye. I know you will miss him terribly. I will be thinking of you  
Nancy Jones

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**Nancy Jones** - January 14, 2021 at 11:28 PM

MS

“ My Dear Sharon I am so sorry for your loss. Jude was a Very special person. He did the service for my late husband and did a WONDERFUL service . He also did my brothers grave side service and you Sharon gave one of my husbands brothers last rites. So you see you and Jude are very special to me. God be with ALL of you.

*Marge Scully*

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**marge scully** - January 14, 2021 at 05:03 PM



“ Sharon, Eric, Janene,  
I hope you can feel the hug I would be giving each of you if we could gather.  
Closing my eyes tightly now to send it as best I can,  
Helen Crow

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**Helen Crow** - January 14, 2021 at 04:59 PM

KF

“ Sharon, I am so sorry to hear of Jude's passing. He was absolutely one of my favorite all time people on this earth. I loved our visits at many family functions and he loved seeing my daughter's art work. What joyful times we had together. So sad, but forever grateful I had the pleasure to know him. May he rest in peace.

*Kenda Falley*

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**Kenda Falley** - January 14, 2021 at 03:07 PM

JB

“ Sorry to hear of the passing of Jude. I have many fine memories of our days at Maur Hill coaching together. Our quail hunting trips and attending athletic events together also brings back fond memories. His calm ways and smile will always be remembered.

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**jerome f brown** - January 13, 2021 at 07:50 PM

MP

“ I grew up around Brother Jude. A very good friend of my family! I was always happy when I knew he was coming over for dinner. He would talk and joke with all of us! Rest in peace and thank you for your love. Molly Brown Hamilton

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**Molly Hamilton p** - January 13, 2021 at 06:55 PM

RG

“ Sharon-I was saddened to learn of Jude's death in the paper today. He was an important part of our care team at St Francis providing care and comfort to staff as well as patients. He often expressed his gratitude to you for the opportunity to experience the kind of love that is possible between a man a woman. So sorry for your loss.....  
*Ron & Vicki*

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**Ronald D Gauerke** - January 13, 2021 at 06:22 PM

RS

“ Sharon, I am so sorry for the passing of Jude. I learned so much from Jude when I was at the Mount, many years ago that I carry with me to this day. Jude will be missed by many. Prayers to you and your Family.

Rebecca A Schiefelbein - January 13, 2021 at 01:44 PM

BM

“ Sharon, I'm so sorry for your loss. Jude was such a loving soul and he will be dearly missed. I send my love and prayers for you and your family. May he Rest In Peace.  
Barb Madison

Barb Madison - January 13, 2021 at 12:37 PM

KS

“ Sharon, Fred and I were so sorry to learn that Jude had died. He was the definition of " a nice guy." Jude was kind, compassionate and always welcoming. The world has lost a real mensch.

Karen and Fred Shectman - January 13, 2021 at 12:35 PM

SL

“ Sharon,

*It was an honor to have known Jude. He was such a warm and generous man who always made time to console and counsel others. I'll always be grateful for the kindness he showed to my father in his final days. I'm sorry for your loss.*



Sandy Lawrence - January 13, 2021 at 11:39 AM

SW

“ I met Jude when he worked at St. Francis, he came to visit when I was very sick in the ICU in 1995. He was a great comfort to me and my family. He took my ragged teddy bear (I was very concerned letting him take it) and sewed an eye on him for me. For my birthday that year he surprised me with some Native American friends that performed for me in my room. What a blessing it was to run into him again Michaela's graduation! Jude was a special man with a huge heart and amazing grace. The world is less bright without his smile. May the Lord wrap his arms around you and provide you comfort.  
Shannon Wagner

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**Shannon Wagner** - January 13, 2021 at 09:50 AM

JO

“ Jude will be forever loved. He was one of those rare people that had the energy and gift of love that changed peoples lives for the better. So sorry for your loss. I will always hold him close to my heart as one of the best gifts life gave me by meeting him. -joy bishop

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**joy** - January 13, 2021 at 09:43 AM

DB

“ I met Jude at St Francis when I was working there, he always had a smile and would have an ear to listen , then when I started working at Sterling House our paths crossed again , he will be missed .

*Debra Bahret*

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**Debra Bahret** - January 13, 2021 at 08:55 AM

LK

“ Sharon, was sad to learn of Judes death. He meant a lot to me. I will always remember how nice he was when I was a freshman at the Mount. We kept in touch over the years. He will be greatly missed.

*Lisa Kissee*

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**Lisa Kissee** - January 12, 2021 at 09:43 PM

MM

*Dear Mrs. Sharon, We hear at Sunshine Connection are sad to hear this and are keeping you in prayer.*

*Marilyn Murphy, Director*

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**Marilyn Murphy** - January 13, 2021 at 07:33 AM

NW

“ I am so sorry for your loss. Jude was a wonderful man with a huge heart. I have had the privilege of working with Jude at The Pines in Holton and Oakley Place for many years. He always had a warm smile and ornery laugh. Bingo will never be the same without him. Such a caring soul that will be missed by many. RIP my friend until we meet again.

*Nikki Wing, manager Oakley Place 2*

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**Nikki Wing** - January 12, 2021 at 07:46 PM