



Charley Taylor
(Born: April 25, 1949 – Died: April 10, 2021)

Charley Taylor was born in Bradford, PA to Arthur Taylor III and Mary Lillian Morgan Taylor. He was the 3rd child in the family. His older sister, Joan Taylor, continues to live in Bradford. His older brother, Thomas Taylor, a resident of Baltimore, is a veteran of Vietnam and inherited the family construction company from his father. *Note of interest: The family's home church in Bradford was The Church of the Ascension and his sister still attends.*

Charley was close to his nieces and nephews. Three of them—Cory, Jody, and Alex—live in Maryland with their families. Nephew Joseph Connelly was Charley's godson and lived for many years in Wisconsin. He and Charley visited regularly.

Charley attended the University of Wisconsin-Madison between 1967 and 1971, graduating with a degree in classical languages. In 1968 he participated in a cultural exchange program studying classics at the Intercollegiate Center for Classical Studies (ICCS) in Rome, Italy. This program was a formative experience in his young life. He loved Italy and traveled there often. His knowledge of Latin and Italian, gained at this time, served him well in his lifelong endeavors.

Arriving in Chicago around 1977, Charley began work at Henry-Lee and Company, a wholesale fashion design house in Chicago where he served as the chief fabric buyer and marketing specialist; he had a 25-year career there eventually rising to become Assistant to the President. Charley attended St. Chrysostom's before gravitating to The Church of the Ascension in 1980s. Beginning his responsibilities as Treasurer for the Church in the mid 1990's he became the full-time Director of Finance and Administration at Ascension in 2003. He always described his work in this role as his "dream job."

More than almost anyone else, Charley loved and was committed to Church of the Ascension and its Catholic tradition, liturgy, history, music, and lore. Whether in conversations or in his work as parish administrator, Charley evidenced in-depth knowledge and understanding of the parish and its place in church history and tradition. His beautifully designed liturgical publications showed careful attention to proper protocol and references in things like the wording of an announcement, or the rubrics of a liturgy as done in the Ascension parish, or the proper treatment of the name of a deceased religious figure or member of the clergy. While Charley's views on such matters did not go unchallenged, no one could deny that he knew and loved Ascension deeply and, in every detail. Most disagreement with him over how something should be done would quite often reveal Charley's position to be the correct one. Charley's choice of artwork, his knowledge of the liturgy and Latin and his skill at graphic design made newcomers to the Church immediately comfortable with the details of the service as they held one of Charley's bulletins in their hands for the first time.

Charley was an avid supporter of the music program at Church of the Ascension, contributing in any way he could. He was a reliable translator providing poetic and accurate English translations of original Latin or Italian motet lyrics when needed. He was essential in choir scheduling issues and made sure everyone was paid in a timely fashion. His accounting of church finances was similarly detailed and his work in this area was conscientious and competent.

Charley was a keen listener. His facility with languages let him hear possibilities for wordplay in the speech or writing of others. In any conversation, he could be counted on to find a pun, or comment on the aptness of a word choice, or suggest a wry alternative, often followed by the sound of his characteristic laugh.

Favorite Quote:

See! the mountains kiss high heaven,
And the waves clasp one another.
No sister flower would be forgiven
If it disdained its brother;
And the sunlight clasps the earth,
And the moonbeams kiss the sea:
What are all these kissings worth,
If thou kiss not me?

