

Law School Celebrates Father Mike McCafferty's Life and Legacy



On Sunday, June 3, 125 of Father Mike McCafferty's family, friends, teaching colleagues, former students, and brothers in Holy Cross gathered on the Notre Dame campus to celebrate his life and legacy. The day began in worship, with Father David Tyson presiding at a Mass in Alumni Hall's St. Charles of Borromeo Chapel. After Mass, we convened for brunch in the Main Reading Room of the Kresge Law Library, and a program commemorating Father Mike followed.

Tom Lange, '81 B.B., '86 J.D., and Ann Firth, '81 B.A., '84 J.D. offered moving testimonials about the profound impact as teacher and friend that Father Mike made upon their personal and professional lives. Dory Mitros Durham, '01 B.A., '06 J.D., a recent McCafferty Fellow at the Law School, shared her reflections about Father Mike and marveled at how remarkably her life and opportunities had been enriched by a man she had never been blessed to meet. We then viewed the compelling film on Father Mike that the Law School commissioned in conjunction with the 10th anniversary of his passing. Dean O'Hara concluded the program with a poignant, heartfelt tribute to her dear friend and teaching colleague.

The McCafferty Celebration provided vivid evidence that Father Mike's memory and influence is anything but

ephemeral in the Law School and the broader Notre Dame community. He is an ever-present lodestar in the lives of countless people, guiding them daily with his legacy of spirituality, service, and selfless dedication to family, friends, and Notre Dame. It is particularly gratifying that Father Mike's parents, Bob and Margaret McCafferty, his five sisters, and many of his nieces and nephews were able to join us for this occasion. We trust that the McCafferty family departed campus with a sense of joy and certitude that, for as long as there is a Notre Dame, we will remember and celebrate Father Mike.

