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In Memory of Father Kenneth E. Taylor – “KT” 1951-2018

**Cecilia Moore, PhD
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The Black Catholic Theological Symposium (BCTS) expresses its thanksgiving for the life and ministry of Father Kenneth E. Taylor. A priest of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, Father Taylor, more affectionally known as “KT,” was beloved for his kindness, generosity, and devotion to friends, family, and the Black Catholic community. Members of the BCTS enjoyed being in his circle of friends and benefited from his ready and fine hospitality when they either visited the

Archdiocese of Indianapolis or met in him other cities across the country.

As the longest serving president of the National Black Catholic Clergy Caucus (NBCCC), Father Taylor was very conscious and respectful of the historical connections between the NBCCC and the BCTS. He was always interested in what the BCTS was doing and willing to be supportive. When the BCTS met at Bellarmine College in Louisville, Kentucky in 2013, Father Taylor made a point of driving the over 200-mile round trip from Indianapolis to Louisville to attend the public lecture and to bring other guests along for the experience. In the summer of 2015, Father Taylor worked with BCTS members, Kathleen Dorsey Bellow and Cecilia Moore, at the Archabbey of Saint Meinrad to prepare documents related to several Black Catholic organizations that Father Cyprian Davis, O.S.B. had collected and maintained for decades for archival donation. After several days of sorting and packing, Father Taylor left Saint Meinrad in a van loaded with archival material related to the NBCCC that the organization donated to the Archives of the University of Notre Dame. This donation has insured that resources to study, write and teach about the history of the NBCCC and other Black Catholic initiatives that it has supported are secured for generations to come. More recently, Father Taylor granted the BCTS permission to use the text of the April 18, 1968 "Statement of the Black Catholic Clergy" on the cover of the *Journal of the Black Catholic Theological Symposium* and to publish the entire text in the 2018 journal (vol. XI).

Even though he was battling cancer during the last year of his life, Father Taylor's spirit was strong and he was determined to keep working on the things he believed were important and to being present to the people who he felt could benefit from his presence. Such a spirit gave him the determination and strength to attend the 50th anniversary celebrations of the NBCCC and the National Black Sisters' Conference in New Orleans, to keep dreaming and working on a new church building for Holy Angels Parish in Indianapolis, and to attend the wake for Sister Pat Haley, SCN because he believed it was important for a member of the NBCCC leadership to be a witness to her homegoing. Dedicated and caring until the end, this is why we remember and celebrate the life of Father Kenneth E. Taylor.

Eternal rest, grant to him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him.

May he rest in peace and power. Amen