



**Rev. Msgr. Stanley G. Mathews**  
**Inducted 1994**

Every once in a while an institution, like a school, is blessed with the presence of a unique person who seems to embody the very spirit of the place. Such an individual personifies the mission, the goals, the essence of the school and becomes the living example of all that the institution would ever want to be. Archbishop Stepinac High School had such a teacher in Msgr. Stan Mathews. For many years and to many students, Stan was Stepinac and when he died last August, it was felt that something very special had passed away and that Stepinac would never be the same.

When Archbishop Stepinac High School first opened its doors 45 years ago, Stan was appointed to its staff to teach American History and coach the tennis team. Over the years his responsibilities grew and, at various times, his days were spent as a guidance counselor, assistant principal, and alumni relations director.

It was, perhaps, both a love of history and the gift of a sharp memory that allowed Stan to remember details in the lives of each of the almost 10,000 Stepinac alumni he had known over the years. He never forgot the students from the early days, the tennis players he had coached, the football players he drove hundreds of miles back and forth to Holy Cross College (hoping to recruit them for his beloved Alma Mater), the troubled students who came seeking answers to complex problems, the class clowns, the valedictorians, and all those in between.

In the last thirteen years of his life, our friend Monsignor Stan faced blindness and great physical ailments without complaint. As frustrating as these limitations must have been, he accepted his sufferings with patience and adjusted his lifestyle accordingly. With the help of Stepinac students, faculty, staff members and alumni, he continued to offer Mass and work daily as alumni relations director. Assisted and encouraged by these faithful friends and strengthened by his strong faith, Monsignor Stan created and maintained alumni records through telephone calls, letters and personal contacts until his final days. Lesser men might have become angry, bitter, self-pitying and withdrawn when confronted by these challenges and limitations, but Monsignor continued to share his faith, talents, wisdom, humor, and love for life with all of us.

Anyone who has any feeling for Stepinac must admit that there is no one more worthy than Stan Mathews to be inducted as the first member of Stepinac's Hall of Fame.