



John M. Pulbratek

November 16, 1952 - November 29, 2017

John Pulbratek was born November 16, 1952, to Mitchell and Wanda Pulbratek. John attended Catholic schools, and considered a religious vocation, but chose, instead, to exercise a lay ministry of compassion and care, especially for those in need.

John had a vigorous and honest relationship with his Creator! Though he clearly heard God's call to certain ministries, sometimes he answered "Yes" though with "a great deal of self-doubt and apprehension", and, other times, "NO!", trusting that "God will continue to love you, but will keep asking in the hopes that, someday, you'll say 'yes.'".

Among the things to which he said "Yes" was "Focus Life", which brought together city and suburban children for self-exploration and discovery. Another was Passport America, a program of the Interfaith Center for Racial Justice, which brought together teens from different ethnicities - Jewish, Chinese, Italian, American Indian, and more - for immersion weekends. He loved seeing barriers broken down and kids just having fun together.

Through the Catholic Youth Organization, John coached elementary school basketball, softball, and track for 20 years. He found great joy in working with those young athletes – and, at the end of the day, sending them home to their parents! Though he had his share of league and tournament championships,

he was most gratified to see kids develop what he hoped was a lifelong love for sports, a lifelong love of his own. His favorite spectator sport was Unlimited Hydroplane Racing and he was recently able to sponsor a hydroplane race team.

The strongest call in John's life came when his one sibling, Helen, died, and he moved home to care for his mother, an opportunity to "repay, in part, the many wonderful things his parents had done for him." Over those 10 years he and his mother traveled, planted gardens, and enjoyed each other's company. Her death was a loss that "took a great toll on him, one from which he never fully recovered".

His most joyful ministry was "playing Santa", giving gifts without the expectation of something in return, and sometimes even anonymously. If he could have had any job in the world, John would have chosen to be a verse writer at Hallmark Cards, or being "Grumpy" at Disney World. Alas, his work days were with the IRS, a job in which he "took some silly pride, being associated with the helpless, hopeless marginalized" of Jesus' world.

John was a servant leader at his church, Grace Episcopal in Mt. Clemens. His special ministry was amongst people enduring homelessness, and he was a coordinator of the shelter that will be offered to at least 80 people, at Grace, during Christmas week. He regularly volunteered in the parish food pantry.

John "could not have asked for a better life, one filled with love, opportunities, happiness, and satisfaction...meeting the best of people, having the best of times," which left him with "a heart overflowing and a mind full of rich memories." He "could not envision asking for anything more." He wanted to be remembered as a quiet, sensitive man who tried to be loving, generous, and kind, and who died with a smile of satisfaction while drawing his last breath.

Visitation is at Wasik's Funeral Home in Warren, Saturday, December 2nd, from 2-7 pm, with a prayer service at 7:00 pm. His body will lie in state at Grace Episcopal Church, Mt. Clemens, Sunday, December 3rd, at 12:30, with a Burial Eucharist at 1:00, the Rev. Susan Bock, presiding. All are welcome to a Polish feast, at the church, after the service. In loving memory of John, donations may be addressed to Forgotten Harvest or St. Jude's Hospital.

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 2. 2:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Wasik Funeral Home - Warren
11470 Thirteen Mile Road
Warren, MI 48093
(586) 751-3131
warren@wasikfuneralhome.com

Prayer Service

DEC 2. 7:00 PM (ET)

Wasik Funeral Home - Warren
11470 Thirteen Mile Road
Warren, MI 48093
(586) 751-3131
warren@wasikfuneralhome.com

Gathering in Church

DEC 3. 12:30 PM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Grace Episcopal Church - Mt. Clemens
115 South Main Street
Mt. Clemens, MI 48043

Funeral Service

DEC 3. 1:00 PM (ET)

Grace Episcopal Church - Mt. Clemens
115 South Main Street
Mt. Clemens, MI 48043

Tribute Wall

JG

“ *Janice Grzywacz lit a candle in memory of John M. Pulbratek*



Janice Grzywacz - December 08, 2017 at 12:29 AM

EH

“ *John was one of the most caring people I ever knew. I'm shocked at his death. He had just retired and had so many things he wanted to do yet. I especially enjoyed his Christmas cards every year. He never failed to uplift my spirits.*

Elizabeth Hramiec - December 04, 2017 at 03:00 PM

JC

“ *John was a wonderful and kind human being. He was always helping out with the homeless shelter, the warming shelter and fundraising events for our church, hearts for homes, and other worthwhile charities. John asked us to join him at Burning Man next summer, part of the 60,s hippie coming out in us, now there will be no Burning Tree without John! So sad you're gone my friend, rest in peace!*

Jane Carpenter - December 02, 2017 at 02:44 PM

DW

“ *On behalf of the Marine Prop Riders and myself and Cadi, John is gone too soon. We will miss his support, insight, and efforts for his friends in boat racing. Gone too soon, Godspeed, John. Don (Eli) Whitney (MPR Pres.)*

Don Whitney - December 01, 2017 at 10:23 PM



“ John’s passing so young is heart breaking. From giving us a place to call home for three years while we got on our feet to wrapping and presenting our daughter with 17 toys before a major surgery to ensure she had something new to open and play with each day of her isolation, he never stopped caring and giving. Every fiber of his being was wired for kindness, and without that kindness my family would be in a far different place. He knew we struggled financially, and he loved our kids too much to let them know. He was our Santa, our Easter Bunny, our Cupid and Leprechaun for years, with the only condition being that the kids could not know that he was behind the presents that magically appeared on our doorstep, in our basement, and on our porch until they were older. When I told my children of John’s passing yesterday, I told them that sometimes those surprise second holiday spreads were really the result of an earthly sort of magic brought forth by the kindness of John. They wanted to make him Christmas ornaments to take with him when he is buried, so he would have the joy of being Santa last forever. Your impact is forever imprinted on our lives and hearts, John, and you will be sorely, sorely missed.

Sarah Schroeder - December 01, 2017 at 08:10 AM

“ You will be missed John. A great friend and racing partner. He was one of the most selfless individuals I have ever met. RIP...

Andy Keogh - November 30, 2017 at 07:14 PM

JG

“ I believe John reached his goal: "John wished to be remembered as "a quiet, sensitive man who tried to be loving, generous, and kind and died with a smile of satisfaction while drawing his last breath." John was a generous & selfless individual. Besides being "Santa" for our grandkids...he is also the reason I met my husband. We will be married 40 years....Thank John.

Janice Gray - November 30, 2017 at 04:26 PM

AK

You will be missed John. A great friend and racing partner. He was one of the most selfless individuals I have ever met. RIP...

Andy Keogh - November 30, 2017 at 07:11 PM

TA

A true friend. Rest in Peace John.

Tom Adams - November 30, 2017 at 10:33 PM

JJ

John was a kind and caring gentlemen. He will be remembered for his generosity and jovial sprit. I will miss our conversations about Boat Racing that could carry on for hours. RIP...

John E. Bridge II - December 01, 2017 at 02:41 PM

DS

It was a gift to have met John. What a kind soul who did much on the earth to make it better for others. I will miss you and your reminder emails of great things in the city. RIP...

Delphia Simmons - December 01, 2017 at 02:58 PM

NS

John was very compassionate and kind. He was a good friend and will be missed by so many. Nancy Spanich

Nancy Spanich - December 01, 2017 at 07:12 PM

KS

John, was one of the most considerate people I have ever met!!!!

We first met in 1976 during "programming class" as we learned COBOL!!!! I can still remember him as being one fella in class I could go to for help when I needed something explained again, he was soooo smart!!!! We worked together for over 30 years. We played softball on the same team for years...., when we were younger.

So, I was shocked when my wife read in the paper and told me that John had passed. Too soon Jocko!!!! Too soon. You'll be missed!!!! By all!

Rest in Peace Jocko!!!!

Keith O. Smith - December 02, 2017 at 02:03 PM

DK

RIP John Pulbratek you will be missed.

You were a bright light in my life since you found me in 2012 to talk about Burning Man and your interest in going. Soon after you become a quiet and constant benefactor to the Homeless Backpack Project for Burners without Borders Detroit. ..every year donating and getting backpacks to help the homeless at your church.

Every holiday and i mean every holiday he would send me ecards from 123greetings.. they were corny in concept and so kind in gesture.. and i loved to get them, just got one for Thanksgiving that i only today thanked him for...guh-i suck at timing.... i will miss them and him dearly.

He wrote to me he was happy to be in retirement and enjoying photography and was learning editing software and looking forward the "coming of autumn and having the full color pallet of Mother Nature available to me."

And in October he gave me a copy of an image of his mother for me to place in the Ofrenda i made at the DIA..the picture is at Christmas since that was her favorite time of year and having a real tree was a tradition that he still keep to this day.... now I will place an image of him on my personal ofrenda...you will be remembered as a kind, selfless and generous man...unassuming and gentle who went out of his way to serve anyone and everyone he could.

thank you for finding your way to my life.. you recently told me that I "remain a hero and inspiration to" you...Dear John know that you my friend have been one to me and will continue to be...until we meet again.

Danielle Kaltz - December 02, 2017 at 11:30 PM