



## Thomas C. Brabant

December 2, 1952 - May 27, 2021

Thomas Collins Brabant, age 68, passed away on May 27, 2021. He was born in Detroit on December 2, 1952. Beloved brother of Nanette (Jack), William (Barbara), Suzanne (Henry), James (Monica), Mary Jo (Art), Jennifer, Christine (Mark), Phil, and the late Margo Brabant and Richard Brabant. Son of the late William and Peggy Brabant.

Tom graduated from Royal Oak Dondero High School and Oakland University.

Tom's love of life was evident in his zest for living no matter the journey he was on. He loved to hike, play volleyball, visit with friends and family, travel to many destinations and took delight in music.... the louder, the better!

Tom was a kind, loving and giving man. With each visit, whether at his home or yours, he always brought a gift. His car was full of goodies to share.

Tom was a prolific writer. His journals were plentiful with memoirs, prayers, philosophical questions and spiritual guidance. His inspirational quotes and signs were posted around town with powerful messages to guide and give hope to all who passed by. Tom would give the shirt off his back literally to anyone in need. His possessions frequently became others. Taking care of others was part of Tom's fundamental essence and character. He was always "on call" to help and assist anyone. He had a giant and compassionate heart.

Tom was a Christian and this was evident through his words, actions and witness to all that he encountered, from the least and less fortunate. He enjoyed all people from many different walks of life, religions and cultures. He embraced everyone and was an extrovert as he engaged with old and new friends. His courage was evident as he faced all the trials of life. We loved and cared for him dearly until the moment he left us and entered and embraced his eternal home, with Our Lord God.

Visitation will take place on Friday, June 4, from 9:30 a.m. until time of Funeral Mass, 10:00 a.m., at the National Shrine of the Little Flower Basilica in Royal Oak.

n lieu of flowers, donations can be made to either: CurePSP at 1216 Broadway, 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10001 or online at [psp.org/iwanttohelp/ways-to-give/](http://psp.org/iwanttohelp/ways-to-give/)

Share a memory at <http://www.SullivanFuneralDirectors.com>.

# Cemetery

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## Holy Sepulchre Cemetery

25800 W. 10 Mile Road 10 Mile Road @  
Beech Road  
Southfield, MI, 48033

# Events

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**JUN** **Visitation** 09:30AM

**4**

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National Shrine of the Little Flower  
Basilica  
2100 W. 12 Mile Road, Royal Oak, MI,  
US, 48073

**JUN** **Funeral Mass** 10:00AM

**4**

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National Shrine of the Little Flower  
Basilica  
2100 W. 12 Mile Road, Royal Oak, MI,  
US, 48073

# Comments

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“ 13 files added to the tribute wall



Mary Jo Cairo - June 28, 2021 at 02:33 PM

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“ 4 files added to the tribute wall



Mary Jo Cairo - June 28, 2021 at 12:36 PM

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“ Jim & Family,  
Just heard about the passing of your brother.  
So sorry to hear this.  
Peace, love, & prayers for your brother and all of your family.  
Susan Moore

Susan Moore - June 09, 2021 at 08:11 PM

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“ So sorry to hear about Tom's passing. He has some company awaiting his arrival.

John and Alice Else

John G. Else II - June 06, 2021 at 08:23 PM

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I have so many memories of Tom.

Every time I go on his side of town, especially Royal Oak, I think of him & his family. I've been invited to his sister's & brother's home's for get together's. He has a very large wonderful family.

We've been to the movies with his brother, & many times, movies, outings & restaurants with my neice. Tom would make us laugh, without trying. Especially when he would (after making a mistake, messing up somehow) he'd say "HeIIII" Nobody could say it like him.

We've riden bikes, walked, ran, swam, gone to church & he would help there with taking down music & speaker equipment every week for a long time. I met him @ a singles/church volleyball group. We met & have been friends for almost 10 years. He liked karaoke, & dancing wild, that also, would crack me up. The very first time we met outside of volleyball, we volunteered @ a church food pantry. He was always so eager to help anybody, anytime!

One time I was cutting his hair & a friend needed a ride to visit someone in the hospital & he wanted to drop everything to help her with his hair 1/2 cut.

In the time I knew him, he had @ least 4 different people live with him, just because they needed a place to stay.

Tom was (IS) a Christian. That's the best thing you can be.

We're going to miss you, my friend.....

But, it's not goodbye.....it's see ya later.....

Love, Charlene

**Charlene** - June 03, 2021 at 11:56 PM



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Dear Charlene, Kindred Friend to my brother,

May God Bless you for all your Love, Kindness & Faithful Fellowship these past 10 years until his end of life. You enriched his life with all your happy memorable times together. He lved you dearly !!

Until you meet again, Mary Jo

**Mary Jo Cairo** - June 28, 2021 at 11:39 AM

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“ I met Tom in 1977 when he went to visit his brother, my roommate Jim, at our Ypsilanti apartment. Jim had to go to work and the other roommates were either working or out of town. So it was up to me to entertain Tom for the day. Tom suggested going horseback riding and off we went. I had a terrific time in spite of riding a horse that didn't act like an angel, even thought that was her name--Angel. When I moved back to my hometown of Adrian, I would occasionally receive a phone call from Tom who just wanted to say hello or to present a philosophical question. These calls would occur maybe once a year at first then every two or three years, but he never forgot to touch base. He reached out. Sometimes Tom would find an item that reminded him of me. He would mail me the item with a short note explaining how the item may be of interest to me. The item was never of much material value. The treasure was in knowing someone had thought of me. I'm sure he mailed numerous trinkets to people he had met through the years. That was Tom's humanity.

From the memory of a friend,  
Joel Rodriguez

Joel Rodriguez - June 02, 2021 at 10:33 PM



“ Joel, thank you for sharing your memories of Tom, I am so sorry I did not get a chance to talk to you yesterday. I got glimpses of you but it was difficult to break away. My last glimpse of you was when we were exiting the church and I saw your sweet smile. Thank you so much for coming to share in Tom's farewell.

Love, Suzanne & Hap

suzanne herpel - June 05, 2021 at 07:25 PM

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“ page 2

I am very happy to have fond memories of my first trip to San Francisco to visit you. It was a very exciting adventure for me. Thank you, Tom  
I shall never forget our trip to Boston with brave Margo as Pilot, Tom- front seat Co pilot and Jim & I lounging in the backseat with not a care in the world ( except for me begging, “when will be at the ocean”?)  
Margo courageously took the Fabulous Four again to Niagara Falls . I love the picture of us together pretending to be plunging over the great waterfall.  
I also will cherish our Belle Isle. I prayed heartily that you would return from the bathroom without an accident. I still envision your barefoot walk along the sandy beach alone . I figured & prayed that if you tumbled , you would have collapsed into the soft sand without an injury . Well, you also managed to walk up to an ice cream truck and return with dessert for us both.

These past two years have been extremely meaningful to me. There have been lessons that one cannot grasp from a textbook. We have experienced joy, anger, laughter, frustration. But in the end, I have learned patience, appreciation for my well being, thankfulness for all the family and American House staff and caregivers, gratefulness for any blessings big or small and attempting to understand your needs to the best of my ability.

I am sorry and ask for your forgiveness for any situation that may have upset you. My happiness has been your reciprocal smiling face watching my spontaneous dance routines to our favorite music of 98.7 The Breeze & 104. 3 WOMC, listened consistently from the Music Man

Tom, you have persevered amazingly well with the trials & tribulations these past two years. The loss of your independence and the ability to care for yourself lent to opening your private space to numerous caregivers with varied personalities into the Revolving Front Door of #348. More than less, you willingly accepted their care, well, not always.

Your unforgettable escape to Los Angeles, unbeknownst to our family, displayed Where There is a Will, There is a Way ! Your Guardian Angel was glued to you from the moment you hopped in the Uber to the airport, landing, shelter, (wherever else your walker took you) and flight home with the assistance of a group of earthly guardian angels. It was all a great example of The Great Houdini. My regret is that you did not let me come along for the ride!

Other nicknames include

Mr. Dairy Deluxe ( whipped cream supplied by Christine because What Tommy Wants, Tommy Gets !

Smooth Operator- your irresistible smile and twinkling blue eyes have charmed many women, including your Med Team caregivers. You operated well by choosing your favorite, respectful and faithful kindred spirit, Charlene Viglotti. She knows you better than anyone and has stuck by your side for better and worse. That makes you a very blessed and lucky man!

In closing ,

I truly wish that your Birthday Wishes Come True!  
I LYB , Love YOU a BUNCH ....BIG TIME,  
MAY God Bless You,

Your Affectionate Sister,  
Mary Jo

p.s.. Big Deal. So What . Who Cares !!!!!!!!

Rest in Heavenly Peace with all the infinite blessings which God has prepared for  
your soul. AMEN

**Mary Jo Cairo** - June 01, 2021 at 03:09 PM

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“ Dear Tom, Wed, Dec 2, 2020  
HAPPY BIRTHDAY !

I am so pleased to share my love and admiration for my brother on your 68 th Birthday.

I am reflecting upon our birth order together . You are the absolute Middle Child, number 6 of our Brabant Bunch with five above and five below you and myself, number 8. So, if we were to be divided in half, you would be considered my oldest brother . As children, naturally, we teased, fought, chased, name- called and sought to be the fittest with the circumstances at hand. Those episodes were overruled by the laughter, music, dancing, creative, and joint fun- loving memories being raised in a large family. For every card dealt, we played the hands very well. I really do cherish every roller coaster ride together because that is what has developed my faith. Together, we have strived to appreciate our God given gifts, realizing God holds our hands through every circumstance- good, bad, confusing, joyful, and everything in between .

Tom, you were born with many positive attributes that have been exemplified your entire life ! Let me name just a few

Creative Genius- tackling any type of electronic device or inventing a way to improve something God gave you that specific brain chip that I definitely lack. I was amazed how you could fix anything.

Reliable Handyman - you carried your home experience into a profession. Just think of all the people that you served, not only a relief to their inconvenient problem, but also showing kindness in your St Therese “Little Way”.

Fluent Poet, Philosopher -your genuine writings have been an inspiration to our family, your friends , public community, and social media. I have saved your memorable cards and notes. Fortunately, we have a binder & folders of your collected works that will be treasured all the days and years to come.

Aphorist - the definition of a person that expresses much in a few words ;memorable expressions handed down by tradition from generation to generation ; purpose to convey an appropriate message to people that is generally regarded as a universal moral or truth.

This is YOU. Written on the wall . One of your legacy's. INDEED

Altruistic- the definition of someone who puts others first. Concerned with the good of others .Someday you will meet in heaven all the people that you willingly gave the shirt off your back to meet their needs - a jacket, hat, gadget , book . electronic devices, home items We never knew what you would pull out of your “Thomas Grab Bag”, but your kind-hearted deeds were appreciated.

Horticulturist - Your plants thrive under your green thumb. Your care and TLC to God's nature was your signature, personal home décor. You passed tips to help my screaming plants to thrive under my roof.

Evangelist- You have enlarged God's territory by your witness to share the Gospel of Jesus .I have grinned upon noticing your uplifting signs posted on a pole, tree or window in various random areas with a message of Faith, Hope, Love and Jesus .”  
Way to go brother !

I have books received from you in my library collection- What You Want to Know About Heaven, Biblical and Inspirational books as well. Thank you, Tom

Dear Brother ,

I will remember you the very most for how you weathered the storms , time after time ,with peaks and valleys from your bipolar illness. The hardship of this mental illness could have led you to use alcohol or drugs to mask anxiety or fear, but you did not. You have been a true witness of what it means to Carry His Cross ! I believe your illness held significant opportunities for you to minister to other acquaintances and friends who also struggled with physical, mental or emotional problems.

Your mansion in heaven will be Glorious !

Each step of your golden path shall array all your acts of kindness in Jesus Name .

continued on next page Love, Mary Jo

Mary Jo Cairo - June 01, 2021 at 02:54 PM

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“ I will miss my brother Tom's smile, his sense of humor and his laugh even during his illness. Tom had a gentle and generous soul. Until we meet again Tom, love from your sister Suzanne.



Suzanne Herpel - June 01, 2021 at 09:37 AM

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“ Joanne Smith lit a candle in memory of Thomas C. Brabant



Joanne Smith - May 30, 2021 at 09:19 PM

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Jennifer Brabant - May 29, 2021 at 12:22 PM

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Jennifer Brabant - May 29, 2021 at 08:44 AM

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“ I will always treasure the time I was able to spend with being able to care for you as you cared for so many. Love you with all of my heart dear brother. Now it's time for you hike beyond the moon and stars in the beauty of heaven.



Jennifer Brabant - May 29, 2021 at 07:39 AM