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February 23, 2016

Dear Colleagues and Friends of Fr. Ernest Bartell, CSC

I write this note to add my congratulations on this evening when you honor Fr. Ernest Bartell, CSC, co-founder of the Kellogg Institute.

For over 40 years I have known Fr. Ernie in three capacities; as a brother in the Congregation of Holy Cross; as a student during his time as President of Stonehill College; and as a mentor and friend when later, I assumed the same Presidency. I'd like to share briefly from these perspectives.

As a confrere in the Congregation, Ernie was first and foremost a good religious and priest. He has served the Congregation well in numerous capacities and always brought his considerable talents to the task at hand. But he was also passionate in his avocations. In the 1980s, he would come to stay with us in our parish in Brooklyn, New York when he would run the New York City Marathon. He would fill up on pasta and share with us his training tips. He was a serious runner and was always striving to do better. We all enjoyed his visits and his sharing.

During my time as a student at Stonehill and as a seminarian in Holy Cross, I had the opportunity to get to know Fr. Ernie during his presidency at Stonehill College. He would invite us to the President's house for meals. During these gatherings, he would listen carefully to our opinions on what was going on at the College and the issues that were affecting the student body. He was also very supportive of us as young men discerning our vocations to religious life and priesthood in Holy Cross. They were wonderful moments that gave us insight to the bonds that grow in a religious community. And the food was always superior to the cafeteria!!!

After I became president of Stonehill in 2000, I learned what a critical role Fr. Ernie played in the development and success of the College. When he became president in 1971, the college had struggled to grow in its first 25 years. The need for additional resources for faculty, facilities and programming was truly pressing. He established the College's endowment; went to work promoting the mission of the College; and laid the foundation for the College's future success. Even though his tenure was cut short by his appointment in the Carter administration, his efforts bore much fruit. And during my presidency, I always enjoyed our dinners in Hyannis where we would compare notes and share memories of common colleagues and friends.

Fr, Ernie, this honor you receive this evening is well-deserved. I add my congratulations and greetings. Please know that you remain in my prayers as you celebrate with your colleagues, friends and brothers in Holy Cross.

Your in Holy Cross,

Rev. Mark T. Cregan, CSC