

Mark Separovich (class of 1931) was born to immigrant parents. His father died during the influenza epidemic of 1918 when Mark was five years old, leaving his mother with four young children, three boys and a girl. They lived near the Crocker Art Gallery at 3rd and O Streets, an area that was considered "lower end" during those days.

Mark and his siblings attended Cathedral Parish Grammar School. Mark and his two brothers were good athletes. One day, Brother Genebern, the Athletic Moderator from Christian Brothers School, observed Mark pitching for Cathedral Parish. He said if Mark would attend Christian Brothers, he could pitch for the baseball team. Mark's mother could not afford the tuition. Brother Genebern arranged for Mark to attend Christian Brothers School for four years tuition-free.

Mark first made the varsity baseball team when he was a sophomore in 1929. He was the No. 1 pitcher until he graduated in 1931. Mark pitched for one of the greatest clubs ever assembled by the Christian Brothers. The 1929 team finished with a perfect record winning all 10 of their games. Their total record for 1930 was 12 and 2 and the 1931 record was 10 and 2. The total for the three years was 32 wins and 4 losses.

Mark was a good student and was appreciative of the opportunity he was given to attend Christian Brothers School. Mark worked hard and just missed earning an academic scholarship to St. Mary's College by a couple of points.

Although Mark grew up in a compromised area without a father figure in his home, he became a man of good character. He was a wonderful husband and father. This was due in a large part to the generosity and support of the Christian Brothers community.

Because of Mark's experiences at Christian Brothers, Mark provided a Catholic education for his two daughters. Kathy Separovich Davis graduated from Bishop Armstrong in 1963 and Janet Separovich graduated from Bishop Manogue in 1969. They were both grateful for the sacrifices Mark made in order for them to attend a Catholic high school.

Janet was a special person who lived her faith and practiced what she learned, including respect and tolerance, at Bishop Manogue High School. She loved her time there and made life-long friends. Unfortunately, Janet passed away unexpectedly in 2010 at the age of 58.

It is for these reasons, I believe in the need-based scholarships provided by Christian Brothers High School and choose to "pay it forward" with the Mark J. Separovich '31 Endowed Scholarship Fund and the Janet M. Separovich '69 Endowed Scholarship Fund.

