



## Mr. Christopher Joseph Kauffman

October 9, 1936 - January 30, 2018

Christopher Joseph Kauffman, born Oct. 9, 1936 in St. Louis, MO, passed away on Jan. 30, at Oakcrest Village Care Center in Parkville, MD. He is survived by his wife of 51 years, Helen “Squeaky” (nee Schaberg) Kauffman; his three children Jane Kauffman Marinelli (Bobby Marinelli), Christopher Justus Kauffman (Emily Windover), and Katie Kauffman (Luis Maldonado); and seven grandchildren Michael and Katrina Marinelli, Seessa and John Maldonado Kauffman, and Ruby, Phoebe, and Mia Windover Kauffman who all loved their “Granddad”. He is also survived by his older brother Daniel Kauffman of Blue Ridge, Georgia, and many nieces and nephews.

The fourth child of Bernice O’Brien and Daniel Emmanuel Kauffman, Chris grew up in St. Louis with siblings Daniel Kauffman, the late Margaret (Peggy) Abel, and the late Jack Kauffman. He was raised by his mother Bernice and his “Granddad” Chris O’Brien. He attended St. Roch’s school and the Christian Brothers Academy in Clayton, Missouri.

Kauffman was a church historian, receiving his BA from St. John’s University in Collegeville, MN and PhD from St. Louis University. As someone who always wanted to “teach teachers” he held the chair as the Catholic Daughters of the Americas Professor of Church History at the Catholic University of America. He has written ten books on American Catholic history, including a two-volume history of the Alexian Brothers, two-volume history of the Knights

of Columbus, and a two-volume history of the priests of St. Sulpice in America.

Other books include *Ministry and Meaning: A Religious History of Catholic Health Care in the United States*, and *Education and Transformation: Marianist Ministries in America Since 1849*, both published by Crossroad. He has also published a biography of William Howard Bishop, the founder of the Glenmary Home Missioners.

He was general editor of *Bicentennial History of the Catholic Church in America*, an award-winning six-volume set that covers such topics as Church organization, women in the church, and the catholic immigrant experience. It was published in 1989 and was presented to Pope John Paul II.

Again as general editor, he created an eight-volume series, *American Catholic Identities: A Documentary History*. In 1983, he launched the *Journal The U.S. Catholic Historian* and was general editor until 2013. *The U.S. Catholic Historian* is widely known as a publication that brought light to stories of Catholics previously underrepresented by historians, such as women, African Americans, Asian Americans, Latinos, and those on the frontier and borderlands.

Honest, gentle, caring, and joyous, Chris brought his loving spirit into every interaction, from the classroom, to the soup kitchen of Corpus Christi church where he volunteered regularly, to conversations with friends and family. He had a passionate and caring marriage of 51 years with his wife Helen and was so proud of his children and grandchildren, turning his talent for writing to poetry later in life, capturing his deep affection for his family in his poems. He also enjoyed good conversation, puns and old jokes, the beach, crime novels, baseball, and good food.

He died peacefully surrounded by his loving family.



# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB 16. 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

Mitchell - Wiedefeld Funeral Home, Inc.  
6500 York Road  
Baltimore, MD 21212  
(410) 377-8300  
general@mwfuneralhome.com

## Visitation

FEB 16. 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

Mitchell - Wiedefeld Funeral Home, Inc.  
6500 York Road  
Baltimore, MD 21212  
(410) 377-8300  
general@mwfuneralhome.com

## Memorial Mass

FEB 17. 11:00 AM (ET)

Corpus Christi Church  
110 W. Lafayette Avenue  
Baltimore, MD 21217

# Tribute Wall

VS

“ *May our merciful Father grant peace to all the family. I never had the privilege of meeting Dr. Kauffman, but I think of him often as I use the wonderful histories he wrote for the Knights of Columbus. Memory eternal! VivianLea Solek, Archivist, Knights of Columbus Supreme Council Archives*

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**VivianLea Solek** - February 06, 2018 at 11:55 AM

JH

“ *Chris and I were colleagues in the history department of Fontbonne College (now University) in St. Louis from 1966-1972. He was a true scholar while teaching the soon-to-be teachers who were often more interested in getting a grade and credit rather than digging into research. He was a great friend, an example, a gentleman who will truly be missed by all who knew him.*

*My sincerest sympathy to Squeaky and all the family.*

*Jane Kehoe Hassett, CSJ*

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**Jane Hassett** - February 05, 2018 at 11:46 AM

PM

“ *Chris was a big help to me as SSND was beginning to write its history. I loved seeing him at Corpus Christi where he was such a welcoming presence.*

*I wish Helen and the family deep peace at this difficult time.*

*Patricia Murphy, SSND*

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**Patricia Murphy** - February 04, 2018 at 07:10 PM

MH

*Chris changed my life trajectory when he encouraged me to accept a political science internship at Trinity College in Washington,DC in 1967. I had left the convent after five years, I was lost, and in need of a new direction. He was an incredible teacher who urged us to be better writers. I can still hear his deep resonating voice! I am amazed but not surprised at his accomplishments!*

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**Marie Ruzicka Hardenbrook** - February 09, 2019 at 11:50 AM

JC

“ *My deepest condolences to Helen, Jane, Christopher and Katie. My prayers and blessings. So many memories are flooding in, all good, about your wonderful husband, father, my friend and fellow historian. There was a time, early, when the car ran out of gas on our way to Hartford during the early Knights days..and that began a great, great journey. May Chris rest in peace and bless us all. God bless you all. My love and prayers, fr. Joe Chinnici*

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**Joseph Chinnici** - February 02, 2018 at 09:34 AM

YP

“ *Loving thoughts of a kind and delightful man who will be missed by so many. With Love and Prayers from the Peluso Family*

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**Yvonne Peluso** - February 01, 2018 at 11:32 AM