

# Who is this brother Philip whom we honor today?

**H**E WAS A PERSON WHO ENTERED DEEPLY INTO THE Paschal Mystery of the life, suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Initially, he was “Harry”—a Polish American boy from Buffalo who was a seeker, but who turned into:

a man of wisdom,  
a man of insight,  
a man of humanity,  
a man of sensitivity,  
a lyricist,  
a musician,  
a poet,  
a writer,  
a man of prayer,  
a man of theological insight,  
a man of spiritual insight,  
a man of great patience,  
a man of suffering,  
a man who loved and was loved,  
a man of God,  
a man who was a monk,  
a man who was a disciple,  
a man who was a saint,  
a man who was a brother,  
a man who was a friend,  
*a man who put on Christ.*

It was no coincidence that brother Philip was called home to glory on the eve of the day when we commemorate that the Word became flesh, God became man, Christmas.

Brother Philip, we are all richer for having known you. Thank you for the gift that you are to us and for having journeyed with us and having shown us the way to encounter Christ and to put on the Christ. ■

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Words of **Bishop Paul Bootkoski** of the Diocese of Metuchen, New Jersey, at the January 3, 2008, Memorial Eucharist.