



## Thomas D. Garchow

September 27, 1943 - April 1, 2019

Garchow, Thomas, April 1, 2019 age 75 of Plymouth. Beloved husband of Luann. His loving companion of Hope. Survived by his brother Ronald (Elizabeth) Garchow and nephew Bill Magee. Tom was a devoted teacher at Divine Child and O.L.G. C.. Visitation Thursday, April 4th 2-9 PM at Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home, 46401 Ann Arbor Road West (btwn Sheldon & Beck) Plymouth. In State Friday, April 5th 9:30 AM until the Friday 10 AM Funeral Mass at Church of the Divine Child, 1001 N. Silvery Lane, Dearborn, MI. Memorials may be made to Lewy Body Dementia Association, 912 Killian Hill Rd. SW, Lilburn, GA 30047 or St. Joseph Mercy Hospice, 34505 W. 12 Mile Rd. Suite 100, Farmington, MI 48331. To share a memory, please use the Share A Memory tab on this webpage.

# Cemetery Details

## Oakland Hills Memorial Gardens

43300 W. 12 Mile Road  
Novi, MI 48377

# Previous Events

## Visitation

APR 4. 2:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home Plymouth  
46401 Ann Arbor Road West  
Plymouth, MI 48170  
(734) 459-2250  
plymouth@vermeulenfh.com

## In state

APR 5. 9:30 AM - 10:00 AM (ET)

Church of the Divine Child  
1055 N. Silvery Lane  
Dearborn, MI 48128

## Funeral Mass

APR 5. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Church of the Divine Child  
1055 N. Silvery Lane  
Dearborn, MI 48128



# Tribute Wall

BL

“ Tom was my Eighth grade teacher back in the 90s at Divine Child. I have a lot of great memories of him being so patient with me. It must have been a lot to handle and I'm he did it with humor and kindness. Thanks for being there at such a crazy time in adolescence. I'm a teacher and father now and Tom definitely was a part of that, even if I never had a chance to tell him that. Rest in peace.

Brad Laesser - September 09, 2025 at 04:56 PM



“ Thomas D. Garchow

December 07, 2023 at 05:11 AM

MG

“ Mr. Garchow was my 5th grade Math Teacher. He was tough on everyone and no one got away with anything. He was also the baseball coach. His sense of humor, his laugh, his mustache were his trade marks. Teachers, as parents, make a big impression upon kids. When you got into trouble with him, you were thoroughly embarrassed, and it was for the betterment and peace of all. On the baseball team, he had nicknames for most of the players. Some were very creative. First baseman, Mike Gross had a glove the size of a garbage can lid, he was 'steam shovel'. That was the best one. There were others, not as good. He called me 'Dynamo'. He was tough on the outside but nice.

Mark Gannon - May 27, 2023 at 04:04 PM

PB

“ In reading the tributes to ‘Mr. Garchow’ and as a long time teacher and now principal, it struck me how fortunate we were to have such great teachers at OLGC. Mr. Garchow taught all nine of the Browne children and all nine were blessed to have him not only teach math, but guide us on a path of faith. I do not remember a single day he wasn’t genuinely enjoying being with his students. His laugh put us all at ease even as he had high expectations. I am certain he was welcomed to eternal life with the words, “Well done my good and faithful servant.”

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**Patrick Browne** - April 14, 2019 at 01:34 AM

HG

“ Mr Garchow wasn’t only my jr high math teacher, he was my mentor. On top of exposing us to the great humor of Mr Bean, lol, he saw in me potential I didn’t see in myself, noticing that my C’s in math were because I wasn’t challenged and advocated for me to be in the Honors Math program. Because of his belief in me, my senior year of HS I spent a semester helping him teach his first 2 hours of his 8th grade math class as I had a passion to want to be a teacher. Although life had different plans for me and I wasn’t able to become a teacher, my love for math helped me in my career in banking, and my love for teaching pushed me in helping with training programs and creating a financial literacy course. If it wasn’t for Mr Garchow all those years ago, I wouldn’t be where I am today. My thoughts and prayers are with his family and all his loved ones. Rest In Peace Mr Garchow, and thank you for everything!!!

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**Heather Goodwill** - April 06, 2019 at 09:07 PM

JB

“ Mrs. Garchow, I would like to thank you again for sharing your husband with us.

*Mr. Garchow was a fantastic teacher and coach. He was such a big man at school who could keep anyone in line, while in the hallway at OLG, when you saw him coming down the hallway, you would keep quiet and stand taller. Once you got to know him he was quite funny and you couldn't wait to see or be in his class again. I really still don't think I deserved all the 10's (Talks too Much) on my report card but that is over with. I had the honor of spending more time with him between the end of the school day and JV basketball practice, we waited in his class for practice to start.*

*I still remember basketball practices and him teaching us the basics of the game; heads up, the follow through after the shot, reaching in the cookie jar, boxing out and running, running and more running. His facial expressions still bring a smile to my face.*

*We will see you again Mr. Garchow, save some time on the court. I will show you I can still run the 2 1 2 and 1 3 1 defense.*

*God bless you and your Family.*

*Joe Buda  
O.L.G.C. Class of 1982*

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**Joe Buda** - April 04, 2019 at 09:30 PM

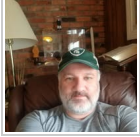
JO

“ Teaching was truly Mr. Garchow’s calling. I’m just one of many of his former students’ that name him as their all-time favorite teacher. He was a great educator because he was engaging and made learning fun with his jokes and funny stories. But what made him memorable was the example he set and the life lessons that were taught outside of class during lunch, at recess, while on safety duty, during mass, at 6th grade camp, and at school basketball games on weekends. That’s where his best teaching took place. I always understood that he had high expectations for his students, but he taught us to have even higher expectations of ourselves. I remember that last day of the 6th grade. Instead of running out of the school and into the freedom of summer vacation, myself and five other girls volunteered to stay behind to scrub the desks and the classroom of a years’ worth of grime. Mr. Garchow rewarded our hard work by buying us pizza and gave each of us a button that said “Teacher’s Pet”. I was so sad that the school year was over, but before I left I told him he was my favorite teacher. He smiled and thanked me, but modestly told me that I still had a lot of school to go. Two years later I was excited to see that Mr. Garchow came back when our class graduated from OLGCC even though he was no longer teaching at the school. I told him that he was still my favorite, and again he told me that I still had a long way to go. Well having long since completed high school and college I can confirm that no one left an imprint quite like Mr. Garchow. He lived his life well and served many. May he rest in peace.



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Johanna Anderson O'Connor - April 04, 2019 at 06:52 PM



“ He called me *Bagel Monster* because thats what I always had for lunch. He gave a student the last dollar in his wallet for some fundraiser. They dont make many like this guy. One of my favorite teachers at OLGC.

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**Ron Rotole** - April 04, 2019 at 02:29 PM



“ A *Full Life* was purchased for the family of *Thomas D. Garchow*.



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April 04, 2019 at 12:37 PM



“ *Love's Tapestry* was purchased for the family of *Thomas D. Garchow*.



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April 04, 2019 at 08:28 AM

PD

“ Mr. Garchow was my 5th and 6th grade math teacher and also my confirmation sponsor at O.L.S.H. And of course my all time favorite teacher! I will never forget his hilarious end of the year poems, and his great laugh! I loved baking chocolate chip cookies for him. He always told me how good they were, even when I over baked them.



*My thoughts and prayers are with you Luann! May God be with you and I know he is in heaven. God bless you Mr. Garchow.*

*Pam Dujmovich Demos*

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**Pamela Demos** - April 03, 2019 at 04:33 PM

DC

“ My favorite teacher EVER! To this day, I still talk about Mr. Garchow to my kiddos! I remember when he used to make me and our class crack up constantly! He would come up to my desk EVERYDAY (no joke)and smell my blueberry eraser!

*I Loved chatting with him on recess Safety duty too! He truly cared about his students and lived his life fully, leaving this world with LASTING memories. Thank You Mr. Garchow! God Bless You and your Family!❤️*

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**Debbie Courtney** - April 03, 2019 at 01:28 PM

CD

“ Mr. Garchow was one of the most kind,smart,funny teachers I have ever had. He was one of the reasons I became a teacher myself. He came to D.C. a year when my class seemed to be going through a million math teachers.... but he stayed with us. He has stayed with me throughout my teaching and nursing career and his memory will stay with me always.

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**Christina Dzingle** - April 03, 2019 at 09:46 AM

EW

“ *I had the pleasure of teaching with Tom for a short time a DC. He was a gentleman all the way. I'll be remembering him in prayer.* ”

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**Ellen Willson** - April 03, 2019 at 09:37 AM

“And the people saw them departing, and many knew him, and ran afoot thither out of all cities, and out went they, and came together unto him. And Jesus, when he came out, saw much people, and was moved with compassion toward them, because they were as sheep not having a shepherd: and he began to teach them many things.” {Mark 6:34}

*Mr. Garchow was my teacher, my basketball coach, my mentor and my friend. A*

*few years had passed since graduating from O.L.G.C. when I ran into Mr. & Mrs. Garchow at a social function. After seeing me, Mr. Garchow reached out his palm and said, “You remember what you did?” Looking sheepishly down at my shoes I replied, “Yeah I remember what I did”.*

*He wasn’t referring to the time that he made Billy Sims and I stay inside from recess and copy the sentence “I will not talk in Mr. Garchow’s math class” one thousand times.” He wasn’t referring to the time that I passed out during the Stations of the Cross at O.L.G.C, split my chin open on the wooden church pew and he had to carry me out of the church back to the school office. No.*

*He was referring to our basketball game against St. Mary’s. “Wiktor, I want you to guard the in-bounds pass under the net – Don’t let him get that ball in!” To provide context, Bubble Yum bubble gum was the “go to” gum for all of our games and practices back then. And in the mind of a 5th/6th grade boy, if one large chunk of Bubble Yum was good, then 5 chunks would be better.*

*So there I was jumping up and down guarding the St. Mary’s player from making the in-bounds pass with a golf ball sized wad of Bubble Yum in my mouth. With all the jumping, the wad got lodged in my wind pipe and I coughed the blob of gum straight out of my mouth and onto the court. I couldn’t leave it there so I picked it up.*

*Meanwhile, Mr. Garchow was standing up next to our bench with his*

*hands stretched out yelling, "Wiktor what are you doing? Get back down on defense!"*

*As I ran by the bench I couldn't see a trash can nearby so I plopped the big wad of gum in Mr. Garchow's outstretched hand and kept running down the court to play defense. He stood there in disbelief on the sidelines looking down at his hand and then looking at me out on the court. I began to pray that the ref would not blow the whistle...ever.*

*After 20-30 laps around the gym he was able to look back and laugh at the incident. He was able to find humor and laughter in life.*

*I will always remember his favorite joke: When the English sentenced Joan of Arc to death they gave her a choice of either being burned at the stake or the guillotine. Why did she choose being burned at the stake? Because a hot steak is better than a cold chop any day!*

*That still makes me laugh to this very day. And I think that is what Mr. Garchow would have wanted.*

*Thank you for everything. Michael Wiktor (O.L.G.C, class of 1982).*

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**Michael Wiktor** - April 03, 2019 at 09:28 AM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Thomas D. Garchow.*



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April 03, 2019 at 09:15 AM

LW

“ He was such a sweet teacher! Made us feel at home again when we moved back to Michigan in junior high in the middle of the year! Taught math, and he made it so easy to understand! God bless him and his wife and family, Liz Walkowiak

liz walkowiak - April 03, 2019 at 09:14 AM

KS

“ He was my 8th grade homeroom teacher and math teacher at DC....he was very well liked by all. One of my favorite teachers. He will be missed. RIP

Kelly Sovinski - April 03, 2019 at 08:10 AM

EL

“ He was a tremendously influential teacher. He not only helped you learn he helped you as a student, and a person. He embodied kindness and respect and left me with many great memories and the inspiration to be a good and thoughtful person. His legacy will live on in all of us.

eileen lyons - April 02, 2019 at 11:20 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Thomas D. Garchow.



April 02, 2019 at 09:55 PM

CK

“ One of the best! I'm a better person because of him.  
Luann, I'll be out of town for the next week. I'm sorry I cannot be there, so wish I could. I'm so glad we got to have lunch at the Box Bar a few summers ago.

Love

Cletus

P.s

I love that we shared the same birthday, not birth year ;- ) xoxo

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**Cletus Karamon** - April 02, 2019 at 08:38 PM

GI

“ Probably my favorite teacher at OLG! He was my 5th and 6th grade math teacher! He was great! 🤔❤️

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**Ginny** - April 02, 2019 at 06:35 PM