



Ski center named for trailblazer

by Deb Nahrgang | Feb 4, 2016 |



crowd gathered.

WINONA, Minn. — Appropriately, some attendees arrived to the dedication of the Brother Jerome Rademacher Nordic Ski Center on skis.

Still other winter enthusiasts waxed their skis fervently in the back room as a

It was exactly the scene that would have made Brother Jerome most proud.

A veil was lifted Feb. 4 to uncover a permanent plaque that now graces the ski center, located in the basement of Brother Leopold Hall. The plaque contains a list of generous benefactors who have helped to enhance the trail system and construct the ski center, many of whom gathered Thursday in celebration.

The ski center contains a warming house, waxing room, utility room, storage space and restroom/changing areas. The communal space is useful, as well as inviting.

Brother William called the ski center construction a true community collaboration “in a part of the world that people only get to read about in books.” Audrey Kintzi, vice president for development and alumni relations, called the bluffs a “jewel of the campus and the community” as she thanked the passion of those who have given their time, talent, and treasure to build the great environmental resource, **which includes 16.5k scenic trail system.**

The plaque also honors the facility’s namesake who was remembered by attendees Thursday for his love of the outdoors and the trails, as well as his ability to craft innovative homemade grooming machinery.

The 1958 alumnus dedicated his career to education in many forms. Brother Jerome spent the majority of his 40-year tenure in the Physics Department. An avid outdoorsman, he was known for his leadership outside the classroom as well.

Brother Jerome greatly enjoyed sharing his two passions—science and the outdoors—with his students, as well as with the public. He could most often be found on the Saint Mary’s trails that he loved so dearly. In the 1970s he, joined by Brother John Grover, FSC '65, and Dick Jarvinen began the university’s trail system that is enjoyed by so many for running, hiking, disc golfing, and skiing. Brother Jerome happily spent immeasurable hours on Bobcats, golf carts, and trail groomers. He painstakingly cared for the trails until his health would no longer permit. Although he passed away in 2012, his name and his photo will forever be tied to the trails he loved and cared for most of his life.

We pray the sun will rise in glory,

As sharp waxed skis prepare for flight.

Our faces are turning upward first,

To pray our legs will find us light.

As words are formed on chapsticked lips,

The thanks we feel will sound like this:

If all we have should fail today,

If family, health, or wealth expire,

Let first-run memories stay with us,

On snow-covered trails that inspire.

To see photos from the event, go to smumn.edu/photos.

PHOTO CAPTIONS: (ABOVE) Brother William, center right, and Brother John Grover, FSC '65, center left, are joined by long-time members of the Winona Nordic Ski Club including, from left: Brad Skillicorn, Gerry Cichanowski, Mike Cichanowski, and Bruce Johnson. (INSET) Brother Jerome Rademacher enjoying a winter day on the trails at Saint Mary's University.

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