

## Community Memorial for Kevin Williams

By John Ryan

On Tuesday, October 9, an emotional and heart-wrenching memorial service was held for Kevin Williams at St. John's Roman Catholic Church in Wading River. Kevin was lost in the September 11th attack on the World Trade Center. He was working for the bond firm of Sandler & O'Neill on the 104th floor of the south tower at the time of the attack. Kevin was engaged to be married to Jillian Volk in December.

During the two hour service, his brother Jaime eulogized Kevin as a kind and giving person who taught him important lessons in life. Both brothers were excellent baseball players at SWR High School; both played the shortstop position and were very close. Jaime ended his remarks saying they will be together, once again, playing catch, saying "you get the gloves, and I'll bring the ball."

Kevin's classmate and roommate, Brian Baumeister, who works as a stand-up comedian in Manhattan said he was "privileged to have known Kevin and roomed with him over the past year" He remarked how supportive Kevin was of him and how he would always enjoy going to clubs to watch Brian perform even though he knew his routines so well that "he could perform them better than me."

Kevin's best friend since elementary school, Matt Detleff, choking back tears, spoke of Kevin's unselfishness and love of people and friends, especially his fiance Jill, who was Kevin's love. Matt had everyone in the crowded church in tears when he said that he "loved Kevin and that he and his wife will name their first born child Kevin William Detleff and will regale the child with stories of his best friend."

Although, Kevin was not there in person, he was certainly there in spirit and everyone in the church could sense it. You could feel Kevin's presence and see that happy smile which he perpetually had, saying in his self-effacing way, "are all these people here for me?". The answer is, yes Kevin, and you will always be remembered and missed.