



Rev. Martin Charles Leonards

January 8, 1942 - August 5, 2014

Rayne, LA - Reverend Martin Charles Leonards, 72, pastor of St. Theresa of the Child Jesus and St. Benedict the Moor in Duson, LA died peacefully on Tuesday, August 5, 2014 at Lafayette General Medical Center, Lafayette, LA.

News of Fr. Leonards death has been greeted with sadness by people throughout the diocese. His commitment to Catholic education and gentle devotion to the people entrusted to his care will always be remembered.

The Most Reverend Michael Jarrell, Bishop of the Diocese of Lafayette, will be the principal celebrant and homilist at the Mass of Christian Burial to be celebrated at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Rayne, LA on Friday, August 8, 2014 at 10:00 a.m Mass.

Father Leonards will be laid to rest in St. Joseph Cemetery #2, Rayne, LA.

Fr. Leonards was born on January 8, 1942 in Rayne, LA. He attended St. Joseph School during his elementary school years. Thereafter he attended Immaculata Seminary in Lafayette and Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans. He was ordained a priest of the

Diocese of Lafayette on December 17, 1966. He served as Associate Pastor in the parishes of Sacred Heart in Broussard, LA and St. Anthony in Eunice, LA. Along with his current assignment, Fr. Leonards faithfully served as Pastor of the parishes of St. John the Evangelist, Mermentau, LA; St. Margaret, Estherwood, LA; St. Peter, Gueydan, LA; St. Alphonsus, Maurice, LA; St. Theresa, Duson, LA, and St. Benedict, Duson, LA.

He is survived by his sister, Jane Frances Leonards of Rayne, LA; one nephew, Gerhard "Boo" LeBlanc, and his children Hailey, Hudson, and Holden LeBlanc of Rayne, LA; one niece, Anne LeBlanc Guidry and husband Matthew, and their children Emma, Anna, Sarah, and Jacob Guidry of Rayne, LA; one brother-in-law, Alfred "Popcorn" LeBlanc of Rayne, LA.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Gerhard J. and Annie Victoria Schatzle Leonards; one brother, Charles Gerhard Leonards; three sisters, Theresa Ann Leonards LeBlanc, Cecile Louise Leonards, and Barbara Mary Leonards.

The pallbearers will be his cousin, Rev. Michael Schatzle, and other priests in the Diocese of Lafayette, LA.

Vigil Service will be held Thursday, August 7, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. The Vigil Service will be prayed by Fr. Michael Schatzle.

Visitation will be held on Thursday, August 7, 2014 at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Rayne, LA from 4:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. and will resume at St. Joseph Catholic Church on Friday, August 8, 2014 from 8:00 a.m. until the time of the Funeral Mass.

In lieu of flowers donations may be sent to St. Theresa of the Child Jesus Catholic Church, St. Benedict the Moor Catholic Church in Duson, LA or Rayne Catholic Elementary, Rayne, LA.

Friends may view the obituary and guestbook online at www.gossenfuneralhome.net.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Gossen Funeral Home, Inc. of Rayne, LA, (337)334-3141

Gossen Funeral Home, Inc.

Tribute Wall

JE

“ *Father Marty became a close friend while working at our church parish as a seminarian in Melville when I was growing up. I had the honor of participating in his first mass when he was ordained a priest. Because our lives went in different directions, I'm sorry to say we did not remain in touch. However, when I needed him when my dad died in 2007, he never hesitated being there for me.. God bless his soul for being so giving of himself. Prayers and condolences to his family.... I know he will be greatly missed. I am so sorry that I cannot be present for his services due to dealing with my 85 year old mom who is presently in the hospital. My heart is with you... God bless his beautiful family... In Christ love, Jerry Aguillard Evans*

Jerry Aguillard Evans - September 04, 2014 at 09:26 AM

AL

“ *we will miss you father.. thank you for what you did for me...love and miss you. L?ve alix thibodeaux.*

Alix Thibodeaux - September 04, 2014 at 09:26 AM

PA

“ *In the late 80's,early 90's I sang in the St. Alphonsus church choir. Father Leonards always walked by our rehearsals, not often saying a word, but always leaving me with a feeling that he was happy with our efforts. I always felt blessed in his presence. God speed Father Leonards. My condolences to his family and friends.*

Pamela Stelly - September 04, 2014 at 09:26 AM

BB

“ *"To live in the hearts we leave behind is not to die."*

~ Thomas Campbell

Brenda Boudreaux Francis - September 04, 2014 at 09:26 AM

SR

“ *My prayers are with you and your loved ones! May Heavens gain help ease your sorrow during this moment! Peace be with you always! Goodbye to my cousin and beautiful servant of our Holy Father.*

Stephanie Anne Schatzle Sprague, PharmD, Rph - September 04, 2014 at 09:26 AM

PE

“ *We are so saddened by Father Leonard's' death. He was a great leader of our churches in Duson. He will be greatly missed by the congregation.
May he rest in peace. Pearl and Jessie Richard---Duson, La.*

Pearl Richard - September 04, 2014 at 09:26 AM

MR

“ *Our sincere sympathy and prayers to the Father Martin Leonards' Family. Our family is sadden to have lost such a Great priest and friend. We are grateful that we were able to have been part of his life when he was at St. Alphonsus in Maurice, La. May he rest in peace knowing he was loved by many!!!*

Mary Ann & Robert Mire

Mary Ann and Robert Mire - September 04, 2014 at 09:26 AM

KP

“ *Myself and my family are sad to hear of the death of Father Leonards. I was president of the Parish Council at St. Alphonsus when Fr. Marty became pastor and learned a lot from his kind and gentle nature. I visited with him a few weeks ago after 4PM mass at St. Theresa's and I am truly grateful I was able to see and talk to him. May God bless him and his family.*

Kenneth Picard - September 04, 2014 at 09:26 AM

DC

“ *Our deepest sympathy thoughts and prayers to Jane and the family of Father Leonards. We will always remember his kind spirit, concern and ministering to God's people at St. Alphonsus in Maurice. May he rest in peace and may God Bless all of you.*

Daniel & Claudine Desormeaux - September 04, 2014 at 09:26 AM

GR

“ *My sincere sympathy to Jane and the other family members. You all are in my thoughts and prayers. God bless.*

Gerri Richard Riley

Gerri Richard Riley - September 04, 2014 at 09:26 AM

EL

“ *our prayers and love are with the family at this time.our friend with dearly be missed... . Love The Thibodeaux's . Darrell, Elsie & Alix*

Elsie Thibodeaux - September 04, 2014 at 09:26 AM