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Fr. Edward T. Morgan, a kind and reserved Redemptorist missionary who devoted nearly 50 years to pastoral ministry, died on March 15 at Mary Queen & Mother Center in St. Louis. A beloved pastor who served in parishes throughout the Denver Province, he left his greatest legacy in Kansas City, where he nurtured the Our Lady of Perpetual Help – Redemptorist Parish community for 26 years spanning five separate decades.

Edward Thomas Morgan was born in the midst of the Great Depression in Detroit. He was the third son of Edward and Mary Morgan, parishioners of Holy Redeemer Church. He studied at Detroit's Society of Arts and Crafts for two years before he enlisted in the U.S. Air Force. He served as an aerial photographer on reconnaissance flights over enemy territory during the Korean "Police Action." When his tour of duty ended, he went home to Detroit and found work as a commercial artist.

The veteran was six or seven years older than most of the other young men who entered St. Joseph's Preparatory College in Kirkwood in 1956. His classmates remember him as a quiet and serious student – a pleasant and genuinely nice guy. "Ed had a wry, dry sense of humor that served us all well during novitiate," remembered Fr. Tom Danielsen. "He and Fr. Ray Maiser made up many skits to entertain us, making novitiate a happy, memorable experience for all of us."

He professed first vows on August 2, 1959 and perpetual vows on September 2, 1962. Fr. Ed was ordained to the priesthood at Immaculate Conception Seminary in Oconomowoc on July 2, 1964, and celebrated his first Solemn Mass at his home parish the following weekend. Hundreds of friends crowded into Holy Redeemer Church to celebrate the newly ordained priest, eager to receive his blessing.

After completing Tirocinium at St. Alphonsus "Rock" Church in St. Louis, Fr. Ed began the first of nine parish assignments in 1966 at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Redemptorist Parish in Kansas City. He was appointed local superior and pastor of St. Alphonsus Parish in Davenport, IA in 1972. Five years later, he was assigned at St. Alphonsus Parish in Chicago, where he served until 1981. He returned to Kansas City, and was appointed pastor and local superior in 1983.

Fr. Ed realized that to truly grow in ministry, he couldn't simply follow in his predecessor's footsteps but needed to address the special needs at each parish. He began to brainstorm ways to better meet the needs of the people living in the Midtown neighborhood of Kansas City, and hired Sr. Rebecca Eichhorn, CSJ, to organize a parish ministry outreach for the elderly and the needy. Parish volunteers were joined by volunteers throughout the city to meet the needs of her lofty plan. The program launched in October of 1986.

Volunteers were dedicated to fulfilling the Gospel mandate to care for the needs of

others, and soon became involved in social justice issues. By 1988, the Social Services Center was providing diverse programs for seniors and the homebound. In addition to a food and clothing pantry, the center offered healthcare screenings, dental and nutritional services, rent and utility assistance and financial counseling, and addressed a variety of other concerns. Today, the Redemptorist Social Services Center continues to provide services, food, and clothing to seniors and those in need in Kansas City.

Fr. Ed moved on to St. Alphonsus Parish in Grand Rapids in 1990. He moved on to St. Joseph Parish in Wichita, where he served in 1993-1998. He was assigned as a staff member of the Spiritual Life Center in 1998, but returned to parish ministry at Holy Name Parish in Omaha in 2002. After three years, he returned to Our Lady of Perpetual Help Redemptorist Parish in Kansas City, where he remained until 2014. At 82 years old, his health was failing and he was assigned to St. Clement Health Care Center in Liguori.

Fr. Ed enjoyed the wide variety of people he encountered in five decades of ministry. He said that a religious vocation demands sacrifice, but it has given him a fulfilled, meaningful life.

Family members joined the Redemptorists at St. Clement's in Liguori to celebrate the life of a man they were blessed to call "confrere" on March 18. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on March 19, followed by burial in the Redemptorist Cemetery in Liguori. May Fr. Ed rest in eternal peace.

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[Marie Ramirez](#)

Fr. Morgan was my favorite priest during my grade school years at Redemptorist school. I enjoyed religion class because he always made it interesting and fun. We would win prizes of prayer cards and small saint statues. He was a blessing to the parish and parishioners.

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[Laura Rosario](#)

Eternal rest grant unto Fr. Edward Thomas Morgan, O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon him. May his soul and the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in eternal peace. Amen

Visualizza traduzione

Tim McGee

My brother and I were alter boys in the mid 80s at Redemptorist. Fr. Morgan was a wonderful priest and I remember his kindness and peaceful demeanor. May he rest in peace.

2

Visualizza traduzione

Becky Wissner

Fr. Morgan baptized our daughter, Natalie. Sue Brye Howell and her husband, Richard Howell are her godparents. God rest his soul!

Visualizza traduzione

Delores Brown

This is Fr. Morgan's picture from the Redemptorist High School 1968 yearbook. Sad to hear of his passing.

3

Visualizza traduzione

Bill Hill

REST IN PEACE.

It seem like Fr. Edward Morgan was an exceptionally good priest. I am sorry for the loss to his community.

1

Visualizza traduzione

Heather Bradley Impens

Fr. Morgan was a great source of comfort to our family during my grandmother's death. He would visit her daily until her passing. He was so kind.

2

Visualizza traduzione

Sean McMahon



ThanhHà Phạm

