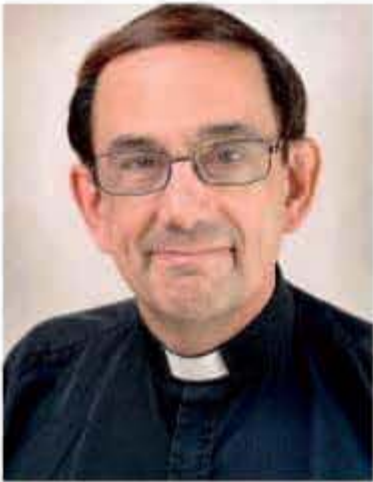




DEATH NOTICE OF A REDEMPTORIST



Fr. Richard Thibodeau, C.Ss.R., the first Provincial Superior of the Denver Province who was so appreciated that he was elected to serve a third term, died on January 16 of COVID-related pneumonia in Oconomowoc, WI. An exceptional administrator blessed with the sensitivity to navigate difficult issues, Fr. Richard served in leadership positions throughout his 44 years as a Redemptorist missionary.

Born on October 9, 1949 in Milwaukee, WI, Richard Keith Thibodeau felt called to the priesthood in elementary school. He attended a vocation weekend at St. Joseph's Preparatory College in Edgerton, WI and was accepted into the Redemptorist formation program of the former St. Louis Province. He professed temporary vows on August 2, 1970 and perpetual vows on August 25, 1973, and was ordained to the priesthood on June 3, 1976.

Fr. Richard earned a Master of Arts in Teaching and completed graduate courses in Educational Administration in preparation for returning to the Redemptorist formation program. He joined the faculty of St. Joseph's Preparatory College in 1977 and was later appointed principal, a position he held until the school closed in 1980. He joined the faculty at Holy Redeemer College in Waterford, WI and was elected vicar of the local community, positions he retained until the school closed in 1985.

With the end of the formation program, Fr. Richard was appointed Marketing Director of Liguori Publications at Liguori Mission House in Liguori, MO. After two years, he was appointed rector of the community and was named president of Liguori Publications.

Fr. Richard was elected Consultor of the Ordinary Provincial Council of the former St. Louis Province in 1990. He also served as vicar of the Villa Redeemer community in Glenview, IL. A merger of the St. Louis Province and the Oakland Province was being negotiated. When the merger was completed in 1996, Fr. Richard was elected as the first Provincial Superior of the new Denver Province. He served two terms, and received permission from the General Government to serve an additional term, extending his time at the helm until 2005. Highlights of his tenure include the beatification of Blessed Francis X. Seelos in 2000 and the consolidation of the Vice Province of New Orleans in 2005.

After years of caring for his confreres, Fr. Richard was perfectly suited for parish ministry. He served as pastor of St. Michael Parish in Chicago from 2005 until 2011, and as pastor of St. Alphonsus Parish in New Orleans from 2011 until 2019. He was popular with parishioners and successfully raised funds to renovate both historic churches

Fr. Richard was appointed director of the Redemptorist Retreat Center in Oconomowoc, WI in 2019. He was evaluating spiritual programs when the global pandemic interrupted operations, and ultimately led to his unexpected death.

Confreres Receive “Treasures of the Church” Award

 cssr.news/2021/04/confreres-receive-treasures-of-the-church-award

April 2, 2021



The Redemptorists of the Redemptorist Retreat Center in Oconomowoc were proud to accept the “Treasures of the Church Award” from Archbishop Jerome ListECKI, Archbishop of Milwaukee, on behalf of all Redemptorists who have ministered in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee.

This award was established to recognize individuals, organizations and religious orders who exemplify the true treasures of the Church in their steadfast commitment and response to the poor in our midst. Treasures of the Church is an annual event that benefits the programs and services of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. The Redemptorists accepted the award at St. John the Evangelist Cathedral on March 16.

The Redemptorists have been in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee since the 1800s, primarily at their former monastery/school of theology which was located on Lac La Belle in Oconomowoc, and since 1961 at the Redemptorist Retreat Center on Crooked Lake in Oconomowoc. They also operated Holy Redeemer College in Waterford from 1968 until 1985.

During their long history of service in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, the Redemptorists have taught at St. Francis Seminary and provided sacramental and religious formation as well as physical accompaniment to seasonal Spanish-speaking summer workers. The Redemptorists provide educational/formation courses for lay ministers, sacramental assistance in numerous parishes, preach parish missions, and offer and private spiritual direction and retreats and days of reflection to the people throughout the Archdiocese, the state of Wisconsin, and the surrounding states. The presence of shrines and pictures in so

many churches of Our Mother of Perpetual Help, whom the Redemptorists were asked to especially promote by the Holy Father, is further evidence of their enduring presence in the Archdiocese.

Fr. Richard Thibodeau / courtesy: Denverlink Update April 02, 2021.