



SECRETARY OF THE PROVINCE

REDEMPTORIST PROVINCIAL RESIDENCE

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Fr. Murphy: A Man of God and of Medicine

Redemptorist missionary, Rev. Lawrence Joseph Murphy, died on October 7, 2014 in the CSSR community at Timonium, Maryland while his confreres prayed their beads on this Memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary. He was 92 years old.

A viewing will take place at 10:30 AM in Stella Maris on Friday, October 10, 2014 followed immediately by a Mass of the Resurrection at 11:00 AM in the main chapel which is located on the first floor. Interment will be at the Redemptorist Cemetery of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in Baltimore with a subsequent reception at the Squire's Restaurant in Baltimore, Maryland.



Rev. Lawrence Joseph Murphy, CSSR

Father Murphy was born on December 19, 1921 in Brooklyn, New York. He professed his first vows as a Redemptorist on August 2, 1944 was ordained on June 19, 1949 and died on October 7, 2014.

Father Murphy 1

After completing his primary education between both boroughs of Brooklyn and Staten Island, Father Murphy attended the Redemptorist Preparatory Seminary in North East, PA for four years and went on to make his novitiate year in Ilchester, MD where he professed his vows. He completed his philosophical and theological studies at Mount St. Alphonsus, the Major Seminary in Esopus, New York, where he was ordained.

For the first 18 years of his priesthood Father Murphy was stationed in the Vice-province of Richmond. He served in Elkton and Roanoke Virginia, in Tampa Florida and in Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia.

In 1968 he returned to the Province to minister at the Most Holy Redeemer parish in New York, NY, at the parishes of Sacred Heart and St. Wenceslaus in Baltimore, Maryland, at Our Mother of Perpetual Help and St. James parishes in Ephrata and Lititz, Pennsylvania respectively and lastly for twelve years at the Redemptorist Retreat Center in Esopus, NY. In 1997, due primarily to health issues, he relinquished his full-time active ministry and moved to OLPH at 61st Street in Manhattan to assume a modified work schedule. Then, most recently, he began his final ministry of prayer at the St. John Neumann Residence in Timonium, Maryland where he died.

On four different occasions during his lifetime Father Murphy requested permission from three major superiors to serve as a military chaplain. The last time he asked was in 1967 during the conflict in Vietnam. Unfortunately his requests were denied either because other confreres had petitioned the superiors ahead of him or because the quota for the number of Redemptorist chaplains needed to serve in the armed forces was already filled.

Among several physical infirmities that plagued him during his declining years, Father Murphy suffered most from chronic coronary disease as well as ocular obstructions caused by eye surgery procedures which left him with severely impaired vision. It was this latter disability that was especially discouraging for him because he had always been an avid reader. Nevertheless, he took on these health issues with spiritual enthusiasm and the same straightforward determination that was characteristic of his no-nonsense approach to life. He taught himself how to use assistive computer devices that could super magnify printed texts and then delved into medical journals to learn more about coronary care. In short, he united his perseverance in faith with his pursuit of science.

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and may the perpetual light of Our Lady of the Rosary shine upon him. May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.