



SECRETARY OF THE PROVINCE

## REDEMPTORIST PROVINCIAL RESIDENCE

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# Father Larry: Law & Order and CSSR-Lover

Redemptorist missionary, Rev. Lawrence Edward Lover, died on December 6, 2014 surrounded by members of his family and his confreres at St. John Neumann Residence / Stella Maris, in Timonium, Maryland.

Viewing will be in the main chapel on the first floor at Stella Maris on Wednesday morning, the 10<sup>th</sup> of December at 10:00 AM followed by a concelebrated Mass at 11:00 AM (Celebrants need to bring an Alb only. Stoles and Chasubles will be provided). In Brooklyn, viewings will be in the lower church of the Basilica of Our Lady of Perpetual Help on Thursday, the 11<sup>th</sup> of December from 2 to 5 and 7 to 9 PM with a Wake Service at 7:30 PM. A concelebrated funeral Mass will begin at 10:00 AM in Brooklyn on Friday, the 12<sup>th</sup> of December. Interment will take place at Esopus, New York.

Father Lover was born in Brooklyn on September 26, 1924, professed his first vows as a Redemptorist on August 2, 1946, was ordained on June 17, 1951 and died on December 6, 2014.

He attended elementary school at OLPH, Brooklyn. In 1939 he followed in the footsteps of his older brother, Jim, and entered the CSSR preparatory college at North East, PA. Following his novitiate in Ilchester, MD he completed his philosophical and theological studies at Mount St. Alphonsus Seminary in Esopus, NY where he was ordained. From 1952 to 1955 he studied at the Angelicum in Rome where he received his doctorate in Canon Law. While completing his JCD degree, his command of Latin easily translated into his fluency with Italian, so he decided to take additional courses in Bonn to become proficient in German as well.



*Rev. Lawrence E. Lover, CSSR*

*Father Lover 1*

Between 1955 and 1956 he completed his second novitiate in Annapolis, MD. From 1956 to 1959 he was stationed at OLPH in Boston, MA where his apostolic work included parish duties and mission preaching. For the next nine years he was appointed as professor, socius, and then director of the Juvenile at St. Mary's College in North East. He returned to Boston as a hospital chaplain until 1969 when he continued parish ministries for the Archdiocese of Baltimore. He served as associate pastor at the parish in Annapolis and as pastor and superior of the communities in Ilchester, Our Lady of Fatima, and St. Michael's in Baltimore. From 1984 to 1993 he was the Vicar of the Baltimore Province as well as superior of the community headquartered in Brooklyn. In 1993 he returned to the Fatima parish in Maryland for six more years and then headed back to the Provincial Residence in 1999. For the next eleven years he continued to serve the province with his legal expertise and although health issues required his relocation to the St. John Neumann community at Stella Maris on Aug 13, 2010 he continued to advise the provincial staff in matters of canonical law until as recently as last month!

However, knowledge of law was not his only forte. He cherished the virtue of order as well. Those who knew him and had the privilege of serving with him could set their watches by Father Larry's frequent visits to chapel and his punctual presence in the routines of community life.

"He was a very detailed man," says former Provincial, Archbishop Edward Gilbert. "He was my Vicar for nine years, an extremely kind man, and a really great listener."

"He was easy-going and didn't get frustrated," recalls his classmate, Rev. John Kelly. "He was sensible, always on an even keel, trustworthy, and a model of integrity. If you asked his opinion, he'd give you an honest answer. So if you didn't want to hear the truth, you'd be wise not to ask him. Plus he had stick-to-itiveness. For example, although he was injured in a steam engine wreck, he went on to become a champion tennis player."

"Larry was pleasant and easy to live with," attests Fr. Gerard Szymkowiak, the superior of our St. John Neumann Residence community. "In fact, if we could choose one confrere we *had* to be stationed with, I'm sure Larry's name would be at the top of the list; everyone's list."

But beyond his knowledge of canon law and his virtue of good order, this humble priest loved being a Redemptorist. At the age of 22 before concluding his novitiate, then "Frater" Lover wrote: "The encouragement of the Redemptorists at my parish, the willingness of my parents and my own interest in and enthusiasm for the life of a Redemptorist brought me here. However, the promptings of Divine grace have given me this wonderful vocation. Only the all-merciful God could have strengthened me. And the infinite love He has shown me I hope to repay to Him in some finite way, by giving my whole self to His love, for time and for eternity."