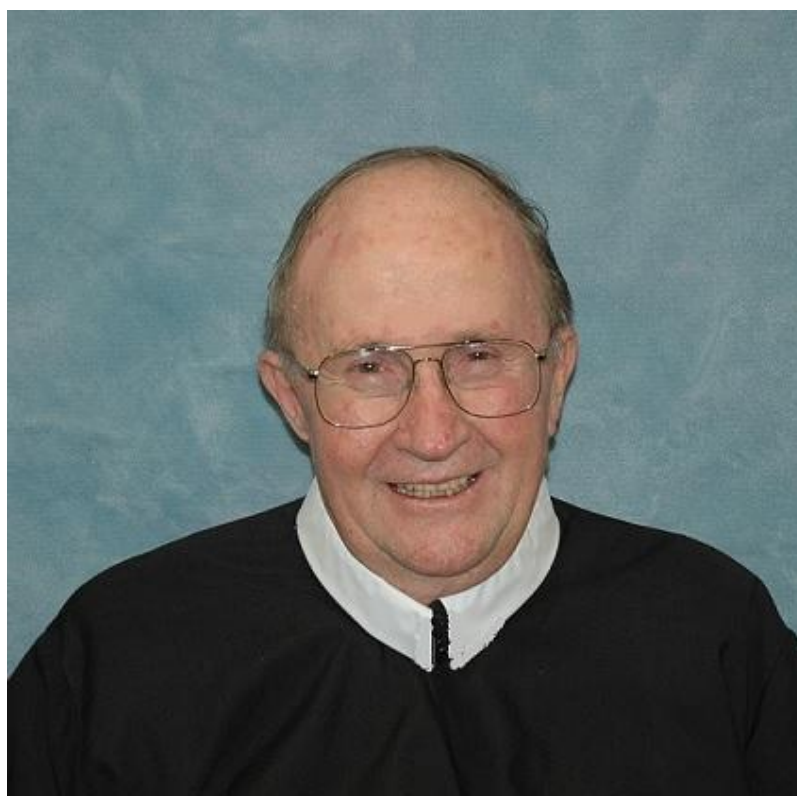# Father Loftus: Fervent and Feisty for the Lord

Redemptorist missionary, Rev. Thomas Brendan Loftus, died on May 31, 2015 at St. John Neumann Residence which is located at Stella Maris in Timonium, Maryland. He had been diagnosed with lung cancer and spent the final days of his life under the medical care of Hospice Nursing and the spiritual care of the prayers of his confreres.

A viewing will be held in the main chapel on the first floor at Stella Maris on Thursday morning, the 4th of June 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).

Interment will take place at Sacred Heart Cemetery in Baltimore, Maryland.

Rev. Thomas B. Loftus, CSSR

Father Tom Loftus was born in Brooklyn, New York on August 21, 1931 professed his first vows in Ilchester, Maryland on August 2, 1952 was ordained to the priesthood at Mount St. Alphonsus in Esopus, New York on June 23, 1957 and died today, May 31, 2015.

After he completed his theological studies at Esopus, New York and his second novitiate at St. Mary's in Annapolis, Maryland, Father Loftus spent the

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next seventeen years of his priesthood doing foreign missionary work in Brazil. He began at Miranda in Mato Grosso in 1959 and continued to serve in Campo Grande, in Bela Vista, in Ponta Grossa at the Redemptorist Minor Seminary, in Antonina, in Guaratuba, until he finally completed his South American assignments in Paranagua.

Father Loftus returned to the United States in 1976 to minister for the next eight years at the Presentation parish in Port Ewen, New York which was located near the major seminary at Esopus where he had been ordained.

In 1984 he moved to the southern portion of the province to tend to the pastoral needs of the parishes of Sacred Heart and Fatima in Baltimore, Maryland.

Then in 1990 he moved back to the northern region of the province to assume the position of Rector and Pastor at Our Lady of Victory Parish in Rochester, New York.

Having successfully completed the next six years of his pastoral work in Rochester, he returned to Sacred Heart Church in Baltimore in 1996 as the superior of that community and pastor of the parish.

In 2002 Father Loftus relocated close to the heart of the Amish settlement in Pennsylvania when he was stationed at St. Anthony's Parish in Lancaster.

The final years of his priestly ministry brought him to St. Clement's Mission House in Ephrata, Pennsylvania until failing health required his transfer to the full-time nursing care provided at St. John Neumann Residence in Timonium, Maryland where he died.

"He was an energetic and spirited confrere," says his contemporary, Father James O'Blaney, "and you would certainly want him on your team whether in a sports match or during a theological debate. He was sure of himself and he had the ability to spread that same kind of confidence in his administrative skills as well as in his preaching style."

"Father Loftus had a sense of humor," recalls another confrere. "I know he loved to end his Sunday homilies with a joke or clever witticism. And the people seemed to appreciate that."

"He was diligent, faithful, and kind," declares his classmate, Father Robert Lennon. "And he was one of the rubric instructors who assisted others in learning how to say Mass according to required regulations at the time. He paid attention to detail and enjoyed helping his confreres in that way. Perhaps that's why he enjoyed playing golf since the game has guidelines and conventions that must be followed. I do know that a round of nine holes really helped him to relax, especially when he was battling cancer and started failing in health. He certainly had a spirit of perseverance. Whenever he could he pressed forward for as long as he could. In that way he certainly set a great example."