



Father Raymond Rossi

April 30, 1931 - August 14, 2016

Father Raymond Rossi, 85, a native of Center Ridge, Arkansas died in Hot Springs on August 14th after a lengthy illness.

He was born in Center Ridge on April 30, 1931, the son of the late Frank and Mary Rossi. He was educated at St. Joseph's School, Center Ridge, and graduated from Little Rock Catholic High before entering St. John's Seminary in Little Rock. He was ordained to the Catholic Priesthood on May 15, 1958 in the Cathedral of Saint Andrew, Little Rock.

Upon ordination he was assigned as assistant pastor, St. Edward's Church, Texarkana, and then to the faculty of Catholic High School for Boys, where he taught Latin and religion for 20 years. He spent his summer breaks earning a Master's degree in classical languages from the University of Notre Dame. During his years at Catholic High he served as Chaplain to Our Lady's Convent, Little Rock, Holy Cross Mission, Sheridan, and later St. Joseph's Orphanage, North Little Rock. He also was assigned "in residence" at St. Mary's Church, North Little Rock, Our Lady of Good Counsel, Little Rock, and finally St. Patrick's, North Little Rock before being named pastor of St. Elizabeth's Church, Eureka Springs in 1979. He remained at Eureka Springs until being appointed pastor of St. Peter the Fisherman, Mountain Home, and the Mission at Yellville. In 1990 Father Rossi was named pastor of St. John's, Hot Springs, and six years later, pastor of Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, Hot

Springs Village, where he remained until his retirement in 2002.

Father Ray will long be remembered as a good, steady, and faithful priest. He was a kind and gentle servant, and will be missed by his family and those he served.

He is survived by one sister, Gloria Rossi DeSalvo of Hot Springs, one brother, Marion (Betty) Rossi of Center Ridge, and one sister-in-law, Jean Rossi of Kalamazoo, Michigan. In addition to his parents, Father Raymond was preceded in death by his brothers, Edward Rossi and Charles Rossi, and two sisters, Louise Crews and Lucille Conway. The family extends a special thank you to his dedicated and faithful caregivers, Sally Miller, Benita Pearce and Virginia Leach.

A rosary service will be prayed at St. Joseph Church, Center Ridge, on Wednesday, August 17, at 6 p.m. Mass of Christian Burial will be concelebrated at St. Joseph on Thursday, August 18 at 10 a.m. with burial at the Church cemetery. Arrangements are by Harris Funeral Home of Morrilton.

Tribute Wall



“ *Father Raymond Rossi*

January 30, 2023 at 02:08 AM



“ *Requiescat in pace, Pater Rossi. Drew Jansen CHS '79*

Drew Jansen - June 29, 2018 at 06:29 PM



“ *Two years of Latin. Plus home room. Always remember when he let us watch the Boston Red Sox in the MLB playoffs one fall. Sad that we lose a legend but heaven gains another angel. Farewell Father Rossi*

Alan Sarna - June 29, 2018 at 06:29 PM



“ *Well done, good and faithful Servant !*

*Steve Morris
Class of '77*

Steve Morris - June 29, 2018 at 06:29 PM



“ *Proud Roman an devoted servant of Jesus. He taught me Latin at Catholic High. I learned in spite of myself. The most valuable course I took at CHS. I use it every day. Thank you dear father.*

Stephen Johnson, CHS '75 - June 29, 2018 at 06:29 PM

SS

“ *"Gallia est omnis divisa in partes tres."* All papers started with that first sentence from Caesar's Gallic Wars. And the Latin he taught definitely made the first couple years of medical school easier! He was a good man and a good priest. CHS '75

Stephen Sorsby - June 29, 2018 at 06:29 PM

RR

“ *The Rossi Family : Ave Atque Vale ! Father Rossi was one of the legendary teachers at Little Rock Catholic High. He was a true icon who was much respected. His teaching of Latin remained with his students all of their lives. I will never forget his stories on Caesar and the Gallic Wars. He also achieved a Master's degree in classical languages from Notre Dame. Most of all he was a good priest who tried to instill in his students an appreciation of Latin , Roman history and mythology. Fr. Rossi was one of the best teachers I ever had at any level including college and law school. I can still recite the Pater Noster and the Ave Maria after all of these years. May he rest in the Peace of Christ. Ave Atque Vale! Reg Rogers, Catholic High Class of 1977 , Notre Dame Class of 1981.*

Reginald Rogers - June 29, 2018 at 06:29 PM

BM

“ *Another legend enters heaven. Thanks for all you did and the memories you are a part of. Please know that you have left the world a better place*

Bob "Slug" Morris - June 29, 2018 at 06:29 PM

BA

“ *Godspeed Father. Your influence is far reaching and forever felt.*

*Bob Adams.
CHS '81*

Bob Adams - June 29, 2018 at 06:29 PM

GC

“ *We always appreciated the help Father Rossi gave us. He was a dear soul and a gift to the church. We will think of him when we watch Notre Dame football!*

George and Janice Callahan - June 29, 2018 at 06:29 PM

KT

“ *Thanks Father Rossi for the years of education in Latin. The most animated teacher I have ever had. Father Rossi brought Latin and Roman history to life in the classroom.*

Karlin Treat - June 29, 2018 at 06:29 PM

MZ

“ *When I moved back to Hot Springs, Father Rossi was our pastor @ St. John's Church. My Mother used to teach @ St. John's and was very active in the Church Circle when he was pastor. He was always so nice to everyone and gave such wonderful sermons. We all missed him when he left.*

Mary Jo Zullo - June 29, 2018 at 06:29 PM

RB

“ *Outstanding teacher. Passion for his work. From loud thundering voice in manner of teaching to whisper when driving home a point. May the Eternal Light shine upon him.*

Rob Byrne - June 29, 2018 at 06:29 PM

EE

“ We loved him at St. Elizabeth's church in Eureka springs, Ar. He was a great friend and came to visit us many times, God Bless you Father.

Elizabeth Mangione Ehlert Ehlert - June 29, 2018 at 06:29 PM

MP

“ An unforgettable teacher and a Catholic High legend. Now that I attend the Tridentine Latin Mass, I often think of Father Rossi and I'm grateful for having had the privilege of being his student.

Michael Prince - June 29, 2018 at 06:29 PM

AB

“ What a great guy, I'll never forget him and his lessons in Latin and life

Andree Buchner - June 29, 2018 at 06:29 PM

CL

“ He was a wonderful person and a gentle soul. Enjoyed his classes in Latin and choir. So many memories!

Carl Longinotti - June 29, 2018 at 06:29 PM

MM

“ Father Rossi was a very special priest. He was especially kind and spiritually helpful to me (Maureen). We offer our deepest sympathies to his family, and will pray for the happy repose of his soul. Colin and Maureen Morgan Sacred Heart Parish, Hot Springs Village

Maureen Morgan - June 29, 2018 at 06:29 PM

DK

“ He had us Latin students write this inscription at the top of each paper that we submitted to him: "Gallia est omnes divisa in partes tres". He would smile when he'd tell us that even if we didn't remember anything else from his Latin classes we'd always remember at least that one sentence. That was back in 1971, and I guess he was right. I'll never forget that sentence and I'll never forget him.

David Knotts - June 29, 2018 at 06:29 PM

PW

“ He taught me 3 yrs of Latin at LR Catholic High. the class liked to get him off the subject. when he got off the subject he would remove his glasses & lean back in his office chair. one time he said "one of these days I'm going to break my neck doing this". guess what? the chair went out from under him & he gave a shout & landed on his back on the floor. we all got up to see if he was hurt. he sprang up in embarrassment saying "I'm alright, I'm alright". then we all had a big laugh. may God bless him.

Philip Weber - June 29, 2018 at 06:29 PM

JK

“ Thanks for third year Latin at CHS in '61/'62. Cicero, as I remember. (511-hortatory subjunctive) You taught us well! Thanks again for the memories. Joseph E. Klein, CHS '62

Joe Klein - June 29, 2018 at 06:29 PM

WJ

“ *Ave atque vale, Father Rossi, with respect and affection from a fellow teacher and former colleague. Thank you for your sense of humor and your unfailing wisdom. Thanks, too, for the Loeb edition of Caesar's Gallic War that you gave me when I left CHS for law school -- I still have it and keep it close at hand.*

William Jones - June 29, 2018 at 06:29 PM

MM

“ *Oremus, boys! He was an unforgettable man, priest and teacher and very dedicated to his work. Two years of Latin with him in 9th and 10th grades in 1976 and 1977 school years. Latin is not a dead language and neither is the memory of Fr Rossi. Sub yocum!*

Mark Massey - June 29, 2018 at 06:29 PM