



Rev. Richard Patrick Davis

February 21, 1937 - May 20, 2020

On May 20, 2020, the earth lost an Angel of God, when Reverend Richard Patrick Davis, 83 of Bigelow, AR was peacefully called back to Heaven. "Father Richard" was born on February 21, 1937 in Pocahontas, AR to William Stuart Davis and Katherine Davis (Schmidt) of Jonesboro, AR.

Father Richard graduated from Jonesboro High School in 1955 and St. Johns Seminary in 1963. Although he was not ordained a Catholic Priest until May 18, 1963, he gave his entire life to God. During his 57 years as a Catholic Priest, Father Richard performed over 700 baptisms, over 500 funerals and over 500 weddings.

His first assignment was as associate pastor of Holy Redeemer in El Dorado. In 1964, Father Davis became associate pastor of Saint Patrick in North Little Rock, chaplain of Saint Vincent Infirmary, and religion teacher at Mount Saint Mary's Academy. He served as associate pastor of Christ the King and Saint Leo in Hartford from 1970-1976. During his ministry in Fort Smith, Father Davis taught religion and served as a chaplain for Saint Anne's Mercy Convent, taught religion in Saint Anne's Academy. With the closing of Saint Anne's Academy, Father Davis helped to found the TARE (TEEN AGED RELIGIOUS EDUCATION) which for over two decades assisted young adults in the Arkansas River Valley to grow in their faith.

He received his first pastorate in 1976 when Bishop Andrew McDonald assigned Father Davis to Saint Elizabeth in Eureka Springs Arkansas and St. Anne's in Berryville Arkansas where he served until 1979. He served as pastor of Saint Saint James in Searcy, Saint Albert in Heber Springs (1979-1983), Saint Paul in Pocahontas (1983-1987), Saint John in Engelberg, Saint Joseph in Corning, and St. George in Knobel (1987-1989), Saint Mary in Paragould (1989-1996). In 1996 until his death, Father Davis served as pastor of Saint Boniface in New Dixie, Saint Francis in Little Italy, and Saint Elizabeth in Adona (1996-2020). In addition to his parish ministry, Father Davis served the Diocese of Little Rock as Dean of the Northeastern Deanery and a variety of boards and councils.

For the past 24 years, "Father Richard" has served as Pastor of three Catholic Parishes, St. Boniface of Bigelow/New Dixie, St. Elizabeth's of Oppelo and St. Francis of Little Italy. A Vigil and Rosary will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 26th at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Conway, AR with visitation following; and the Funeral Mass will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, May 27th, at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Conway. Burial will be 12:00 p.m. Wednesday, at St. Boniface Cemetery in Bigelow.

Father Richard is predeceased by his parents and his sister Virginia Davis Cunningham (Heard) of Jacksonville, FL. He is survived by his sister, Carolyn Davis Johnson (Aden) of Jonesboro, AR; Niece, Leslie Cunningham Layton (Charles) of Jacksonville, FL; Nephews Chris Johnson, Jonesboro; Timothy Johnson (Robin Smith) of The Finch Community; Gregory Johnson (Sandra Hathcoat) of Jonesboro; Great Nieces and Nephews, Logan Marie Johnson of Walnut Ridge; Dalyn Johnson (Laura Basinger) of The Finch Community; Madison Claire Johnson of Jonesboro, Bayne Stone Johnson of Walnut Ridge; and William Timothy Johnson of The Finch Community.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Virginia Davis Cunningham's

memory to: UF Foundation, ALS Research, PO 100243, Gainesville, FL 32610. Designate "Ginny Cunningham ALS Research" on the memo line. Or In Memory of Katherine Davis to: Arkansas Alzheimer's Association, 10201 W. Markham Street, Suite 100 Little Rock, AR 72205.

Cemetery Details

St. Boniface Catholic Cemetery

20 St. Boniface Dr.
Bigelow, AR 72016

Previous Events

Rosary

MAY **26**. 6:00 PM (CT)

St. Joseph Catholic Church
1115 College Ave.
Conway, AR 72032

Funeral Mass

MAY **27**. 10:00 AM (CT)

St. Joseph Catholic Church
1115 College Ave.
Conway, AR 72032

Graveside Service

MAY **27**. 12:00 PM (CT)

St. Boniface Catholic Cemetery
20 St. Boniface Dr.
Bigelow, AR 72016

Tribute Wall



“ *Rev. Richard Patrick Davis*

January 30, 2023 at 02:08 AM



“ *Father Davis married us in Fort Smith in 1973. We met him at a youth center and we were very young. But he never dissuaded us. Rather he counseled us prior to the wedding and we are still married. Our 48th anniversary comes around in February 2021. We will never forget his friendship and support and blessing our union. Love, you Father Davis. Jo & Doug Carson*



Jo Ellen Carson - October 26, 2020 at 05:31 PM

FK

“ I am deeply saddened to learn of Fr. Davis' passing but celebrate in his new life with Christ. He was my family priest during the early 80's at St. James in Searcy where he started the Young Adults group. It was casual and fun as well as spiritual. Later he performed my wedding ceremony in 1983. He said, "Don't tell anyone I am marrying you, you are getting married, I am performing the ceremony!" He was a kind and friendly person who has been in my prayers many times over the years. Well done, good and faithful servant. Rest in Eternal Peace Fr. Davis.



Filomena Salman Kizer - May 29, 2020 at 02:53 PM



“ Our family has been so blessed to have had Father Davis In our lives. It began with a visit in 1977 at St. Anne's Church in Berryville and grew into a friendship that lasted through the years - Masses, marriages, baptisms, confirmations, and many, many dinners, culminating with the privilege to celebrate with him his 57th anniversary of his ordination. We dearly loved him. He was a wonderful man, a true representative of all that is good. His memory will be forever treasured in our hearts.
Wayne & Ann Witcher

Ann Witcher - May 27, 2020 at 01:07 PM

CA

“ As former St Francis Little Italy Parishioners, we extend condolences to Fr Richard’s family. One of our memories of Him was when he offered mass, on the Feast of St Francis, and held blessings for all the beasts, on site at the Heifer Project outside Morrilton. His heart was full of kindness for all God’s creation. He was truly a Good Shepherd.. May he rest in Eternal Peace. Tom and Carlene Lubbers

carlene - May 25, 2020 at 08:40 AM

BK

“ Right now he is with a lot of family members and a lot of friends. May his soul rest in peace with Jesus.
Burton Ray Knotts

Burton R Knotts - May 24, 2020 at 04:23 PM

BK

“ When I heard of Father Davis passing I was first sadden by the news but then happy for him for he is in Heaven with God. He was a wonderful priest.



I was not a parishioner of his church but had attended several masses at St. Boniface in Bigelow for which I enjoyed his masses/sermons. He always made you feel welcomed! He will be missed.

Brenda King

Brenda King - May 24, 2020 at 09:12 AM

PH

“ I give thanks to God for the life and witness of my brother-in-Christ. Colleagues and friends since our days in Eureka Springs, he was a blessing!
Rev. Philip Hathcock

Philip Hathcock - May 24, 2020 at 08:27 AM

BB

“ So glad Father Richard was allowed to celebrate life and faith with our family of parishes until his end. My first memory of him was as my high school religion class teacher at Mt St Mary Academy. 20 years later baptized my first grandchild. Another 20 years later blessed my second marriage. God Bless Him!

Bernadette Burgess - May 23, 2020 at 03:28 PM

DM

“ Rest in peace my friend. I will miss your class ring story you told our juniors on ring day every year here at Sacred Heart!
Thanks for all you did for our school kids!
God bless you. Dcn Steve

Deacon Steve Mallett - May 23, 2020 at 10:46 AM

BP

“ Please accept my deepest sympathy and you are in my thoughts and prayers. Father was excellent to work with on the weddings I did in his Parish . Bill Plummer (former owner of Plummer Flowers in Morrilton).

Bill Plummer - May 23, 2020 at 09:43 AM