



Rev. Mark J. Connelly

OCT 17, 1951 - DEC 1, 2014



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Rev. Mark J. Connelly, Ph.D., a Catholic priest who was serving as part-time Associate Pastor of St. Jude The Apostle Church in Lewes, DE since 2008, died suddenly on Monday, December 1, 2014 at the age of 63.

Father Connelly was born on October 17, 1951 in Darby, PA, son of Marie Teresa (Cummings) Connelly and the late John R. Connelly. He was raised in Swarthmore, PA, and graduated from Cardinal O'Hara High School in Springfield, PA. Father Connelly earned both Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Linguistics from Georgetown University in Washington, D.C.; a Master's degree in philosophy from St. Louis University in St. Louis, MO; Master's degrees in both Theology and Divinity at Weston School of Theology in Cambridge, MA; and both Masters and Doctorate degrees in Linguistics from Harvard University in Cambridge, MA.

Father Connelly was ordained to the priesthood for the Society of Jesus (Jesuits) on June 6, 1987 by Archbishop William D. Borders at the Cathedral of Mary Our Queen in Baltimore, MD. During his academic ministry, Father Connelly served as Instructor at Wheeling College in Wheeling, WV and Strayer College in Washington, D.C.; Teaching Fellow at Harvard University; Assistant Professor at St. Joseph University in Philadelphia, PA and Fairfield University in Fairfield, CT and Adjunct Professor at Salisbury University in Salisbury, MD. He also held memberships in many academic societies, presented at many academic conferences and co-authored several books.

In December of 2004, Bishop Michael A. Saltarelli appointed Father Connelly Temporary Associate Pastor of Holy Family Parish in Newark, DE. In March of 2008, Bishop Saltarelli assigned him as part-time Associate Pastor of St. Jude The Apostle in Lewes, DE where he served at the time of his death.

In addition to his father, Father Connelly was preceded in death by his sister, Mary Theresa Connelly. He is survived by his loving mother, Marie Teresa Connelly of Swarthmore, PA; his sister, Maryann Connelly of Swarthmore, PA; his two brothers: Richard Connelly of Media, PA and Vincent Connelly of Durham, NH; four nieces, and two nephews.



Obituary

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A Concelebrated Mass of Christian Burial with the Most Reverend W. Francis Malooly, D.D. presiding will be held on Saturday, December 6, 2014 at 12:00 PM at St. Jude The Apostle Catholic Church, 152 Tulip Drive, Lewes, DE, where friends may call beginning at 10:00 AM. Interment will be private.

Memorial contributions may be made in Father Connelly's memory to St. Jude The Apostle Catholic Church, 152 Tulip Drive, Lewes, DE 19958.

Please sign Father Connelly's guestbook located on this site.

PDF Printable Version



Tribute Wall

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LH

Linda Hitchcock posted:

Mark was a very dear friend during undergraduate years at Georgetown University. We had many classes together and enjoyed lengthy conversations. We lost touch after graduation but I remember him fondly. Condolences go out to his family, friends and those who knew him. He was a brilliant man with a good heart.

March 25 at 8:00 PM

LM

Lou & Cindy Moiani posted:

Our prayers and thoughts are with Father Connelly. We meet him in high school and knew he was destined to serve the Lord. He will be sorely missed.

February 12 at 8:00 PM

SF

Scott Betyeman & Family posted:

Always enjoyed your wit and humor while you delivered the message of God. You will be missed in our community. God Bless!

December 10 at 8:00 PM

PM

Pat Manley posted:

Father Mark, You were a gifted speaker, a humble and Gentle Man, and a wonderful priest. You have touched the lives of many in the parish. I will miss you.

December 7 at 8:00 PM

AK

Ann Kennedy posted:

Forty years of friendship, conversations in two languages (always punctuated by laughter), early years (!) of dancing--how you enriched my and my family's lives! Addio, amico mio.

December 7 at 8:00 PM

TB

Tom Bell posted:

Rest in peace Father Mark. You will be missed at St. Jude.

December 6 at 8:00 PM



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MM

Mr. & Mrs. R. Mazzarone posted:

We' ll miss you very much....you were the best!

December 6 at 8:00 PM

EH

Edward Hermann posted:

He was my friend, as I was his, although we never met.We shared a similar medical problem (I think). Some day we'll have our delayed meeting.

December 5 at 8:00 PM

TF

The Stack Family posted:

Although we've just recently moved to Lewes, we were blessed to attend several masses celebrated by Fr. Mark. A humble and wise man, whose homilies we truly enjoyed.We were saddened to hear of Fr. Marks's passing, but take comfort in knowing he is now with our Lord Jesus in His heavenly kingdom.

December 5 at 8:00 PM

LM

Lucien And Ann Mallet posted:

Thank you Father Mark for watching over us. Now you will be watching over us from heaven. Our prayers go out to you and your family.

December 5 at 8:00 PM

MR

Maury And Irene Robb posted:

Father Mark was a wonderful role model teaching us to be at peace with God, ourselves and one another. He was an unforgettable priest and will always be with us.

December 5 at 8:00 PM



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CV

Catherine Rodriguez-Villamil posted:

Father Mark, You are missed yesterday, today, tomorrow and all the days to come. Such a gentle soul with the greatest wit and such a sense of humor! We will miss the "family" dinners! We will miss your homilies, never met a priest that could deliver THE message so eloquently and to the point as you did. You have left a huge hole in so many hearts, just thankful you were the one to bless our marriage! Thank you, and hope to see you on the other side! Love, Catherine & Sebastian

December 4 at 8:00 PM

FC

Fr. Greg Corrigan posted:

The priests of the diocese of Wilmington received an email informing us of Fr. Mark's sudden death. Very sad news, to be sure. But since his passing I have heard so many wonderful things about this amazing child of God.... his gentle and holy spirit, his loving and authentic Presence, his brilliant homilies.... to view the beautiful tribute on YouTube in honor of his 25th anniversary as a priest says so much more than my little words of love could offer. Thank you Father Mark Connelly. You are now held in fullness of God's loving embrace. May we hold on to the witness of faith and goodness that you shared with so many. Blessings and consolation to you Mother and family. peace.

December 4 at 8:00 PM

NM

Norma Mindrup posted:

Fr. Mark was an inspiration both as a priest and a kind and gentle man. He brought peace and solace whenever I was in his presence and his homilies were always comforting and enlightening. He was a true "alter Christus"

December 4 at 8:00 PM

JT

Jeanne Toscano posted:

Such a gentle man. He will be greatly missed by all.

December 4 at 8:00 PM

BP

Bill Patzig posted:

Rest in peace

December 4 at 8:00 PM



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CL

Charles & Maddie Lechliter posted:

You will be greatly missed! Rest in Peace dear friend.

December 4 at 8:00 PM

CM

Celine A. Mallonee posted:

Like most Catholics, I really don't enjoy going to confession....but Father Mark was one of the warmest, most understanding, and giving of God's forgiveness priests I've ever gone to....he will surely be missed....and his homilies were great also!

December 4 at 8:00 PM

BH

Barbara Heagy posted:

Father Mark has led many souls to deepen their relationship with God. He was a true and humble servant of the Lord and will be missed in this valley of tears.

December 4 at 8:00 PM

JK

Jean Kissane posted:

There are not enough words to describe how amazing Father Mark was. He was a close friend; I feel that I have lost a brother. My prayers to his family and his friends. Mark, I am a better person because you were a part of my life. Love, Jean

December 4 at 8:00 PM

NH

Norman And Judith Hudson posted:

Our deepest condolences to the family of Fr. Mark. Mrs. Connelly, Maryann, Richard, Vincent and extended/church family. Fr. Mark was a precious, humble, solid faith filled priest that truly touched the lives of all who knew him. We were so blest to have him as part of our church family here at St. Jude's Parish. His submission to God through his spiritual exercises of prayer and of spreading the gospel with his inspiring homilies have impacted us all. He was a "storm trooper" of the Catholic Church and for that we will be forever grateful. May the soul of Fr. Mark through the Mercy of God rest in peace. Amen

December 3 at 8:00 PM



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JL

John & Cindy Logullo posted:

We miss you Father Mark. You were a kind and loving person and so kind to us. Thank you for your service to God and to St. Jude the Apostle Church.

December 3 at 8:00 PM

HS

Harry And Rita Smith posted:

Father Mark was a remarkable priest, one in a million. He had a great sense of humor He seemed calm cool and collected. His homilies were memorable, more recently he told a story of giving out candy for Halloween and a little boy says "I know you, you are the Pope" Father then gave him 2 pieces of candy. He also spoke often of his experiences as a priest and anecdotes about his nephews His messages about the readings were memorable. He died doing what he loved and with God. Now he is with God, angels and saints. He will be sadly missed by so many. May he rest in peace. Our deepest sympathies to his mother and his family and his church family and Pastor Jim.

December 3 at 8:00 PM

BG

Bob And Lucille Gambardella posted:

Father, you will be greatly missed. Your sermons always brought a hint of humor and strong message of faith. May God comfort your family during this time.

December 3 at 8:00 PM

LH

Laraine Hofmann posted:

Fr. Mark was a wonderful priest, a great homilist, gentle, and wise man. He will be deeply missed by all of us at St. Jude the Apostle church.

December 3 at 8:00 PM

MP

Mr & Mrs Peter De Pasquale posted:

You made attending mass at St.Jude's a truly rewarding experience.You will deeply be missed and never replaced in our hearts.

December 3 at 8:00 PM



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JM

John Marchetti posted:

Our prayers are with Father Mark was a fine man and priest. This will leave a hole at St. Jude's that may never be filled.

December 3 at 8:00 PM

BB

Bill & Barbara Breighner posted:

Father Connelly was a kind and caring priest. His sermons will be missed and his wonderful attitude cannot be replaced. Your service as a priest was remarkable. God be with you!

December 3 at 8:00 PM

JB

John & Cindy Bitter posted:

So sad to hear about Fr. Mark. He was a good man and a good priest. May God bless him and his family.

December 3 at 8:00 PM

DA

Dan And Della D'agostino posted:

Reverend Mark Connelly was truly loved by anyone who knew him, and he served his parishioners at St. Jude with his knowledge and love of our faith. He will be missed so very much by all of us who always looked forward to his Masses. He is truly a saint.

December 3 at 8:00 PM

JS

James & Chritine Shumate posted:

We will miss Father Mark dearly. He was a quiet soul that touched many lives. We always looked forward to his homilies. God Bless.

December 3 at 8:00 PM

MR

Marie Reed posted:

So very sorry to read. Prayers

December 3 at 8:00 PM



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Denise Cunningham posted:

I am very sad for the loss of Father Mark. He was a kind and gentle soul. He will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

December 3 at 8:00 PM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Mark by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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