



Rev. Father James F. Vennix

March 13, 1931 - June 13, 2019

With faith in the Resurrection of Jesus, we offer our prayers for Reverend James F. Vennix who entered eternal life on June 13, 2019, at the age of 88. Father Vennix was born in Marinette, WI on March 13, 1931 to Henry and Nora (Baeten) Vennix. He attended Our Lady of Lourdes High School followed by St. John Seminary, Colledgeville. He also attended Marquette University, Milwaukee, for graduate studies in education. Bishop Stanislaus V. Bona ordained him to the Priesthood on May 26, 1956, at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral, Green Bay.

Father Vennix's first appointment was Chaplain of the Community Hospital in New London. He then served as Parochial Vicar of St. Philip the Apostle Parish, Green Bay. In 1958, he was appointed Principal of St. Thomas Aquinas Academy in Marinette. He served several parishes as Parochial Vicar including St. Mary Church, Oshkosh, St. Mark Church, Two Rivers, and then Holy Cross Parish, Kaukauna. In 1969, he was appointed Pastor of St. Hedwig Church, Kewaunee, and in 1970, as Pastor of St. Mary Church, Chilton. He also served as Pastor of St. Hyacinth Church, Antigo, and at St. Mary Magdalene Parish, Waupaca from 1983 until his retirement in 2001. During his time in Waupaca, he was in charge of construction of the new church. Father Jim continued to reside in Waupaca after his retirement and was active with the Veterans Home at King. In 1983, Father was appointed Field Advocate of the Diocesan Marriage Tribunal. On several occasions, Father Vennix served as Temporary Administrator of St. Joseph Parish, Wautoma. In 1973, Father Jim chose sobriety and was very active with AA. Father Jim is survived by nephews, Alan (Rina) Vennix, Houston, TX and David (Clarice) Vennix, Bloomington, MN & nieces, Mikki Melton, Folsom, CA and Norella (John) Urban, S. St. Paul, MN. After the death of his parents and siblings, Father Jim was "adopted" by the Alice Baier Family of Oshkosh. Also surviving are Father Jim's "adopted" children Barbara Baier Oshkosh, WI, Bill Baier, Denver, CO and his "adopted" grandchildren Matthew Schoenrock Madison, WI, Jennifer Schoenrock, Oshkosh, WI Heather Larson Mount Holly, NJ, Sarah Graham Denver, CO and Courtney Baier Denver, CO. Father was preceded in death by his parents, siblings, Marguerite (Sister Norella, BVM), Arthur & Henry and his "sister" and best friend, Alice Baier. The visitation will be on Sunday, June 16, 2019, from 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. at St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church. There will also be visitation

on Monday from 10:00 a.m. - noon. The Funeral Liturgy, expressing our faith and our hope in the promised glory of the Lord's Resurrection, will be celebrated at noon on Monday, June 17, 2019, at St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church, Waupaca, with Most Rev. David Ricken presiding. Deacon Robert Precourt will be the homilist. The church is located at N2845 Shadow Rd, Waupaca. Burial will be at St. Mary Magdalene Cemetery, Waupaca. Holly Funeral Home in Waupaca is assisting the family with arrangements.

Cemetery

St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Cemetery

High Street

Waupaca, WI, 54981

Events

JUN **Visitation** 04:00PM - 07:00PM

16

St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church
N2845 Shadow Road, Waupaca, WI, US,
54981

JUN **Visitation** 10:00AM - 12:00PM

17

St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church
N2845 Shadow Road, Waupaca, WI, US,
54981

JUN **Funeral Mass** 12:00PM

17

St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church
N2845 Shadow Road, Waupaca, WI, US,
54981

Comments



“ I was at his ordination in 1956, had a dinner at St Boniface school, he was my grandma's sisters son. Gary Simon

Gary Simon - May 05, 2020 at 09:00 PM



“ My parents were members of the old St. Marys in Waupaca and our family attended church with them on many holidays and family celebrations. I can honestly say that Father Vennix was my favorite Priest. He was so genuine, honest, and positive. He never talked about nonCatholics not being able to take communion. All felt welcome at his Mass.

Peg Reichardt - June 18, 2019 at 09:46 PM



“ You have my deepest condolences for your loss of James. Death is truly an enemy of all of us. The Bible book of Revelation in chapter 21 verses 3 and 4 holds out the beautiful hope for our future in seeing our loved ones again.

NC - June 18, 2019 at 12:01 PM



“ We loved Father Jim.... And his wonderful care of Alice at Vallarta Torre in Puerto Vallarta. I will always remember the first day I met him..... He was loved by many and Father Jim's gentle spirit will be remembered and missed..... Barbara and Sam Patrick

Barbara Patrick - June 17, 2019 at 10:10 PM



“ n Irish Funeral Prayer

Death is nothing at all.
It does not count.
I have only slipped away into the next room.
Everything remains as it was.
The old life that we lived so fondly together
is untouched, unchanged.
Whatever we were to each other, that we are still.
Call me by the old familiar name.
Speak of me in the easy way which you always used.
Put no sorrow in your tone.
Laugh as we always laughed at the little jokes that
we enjoyed together.
Play, smile, think of me, pray for me.
Let my name be ever the household word
that it always was.
Let it be spoken without effort
Life means all that it ever meant.
It is the same as it ever was.
There is unbroken continuity.
Why should I be out of mind because
I am out of sight?
I am but waiting for you, for an interval,
somewhere very near, just around the corner.
All is well. Nothing is hurt; nothing is lost.
One brief moment and all will be as it was before.
How we shall laugh at the trouble of parting,
when we meet again.

Source: derived from a sermon written by Henry Scott Holland and delivered in St. Paul's (London) on 15 May 1910, at which time the body of King Edward VII was lying in state at Westminster.



Heather Larson - June 17, 2019 at 01:40 PM



“ We will never forget, and will be forever grateful for, this kind, wonderful, loving man of God. He presided over our first son's funeral. Our youngest was 11 at the time and Fr Jim got down on his knees and spoke with Rob, kindly and gently, about his loving big brother.

Julie Senft - June 15, 2019 at 09:18 PM



“ will miss him very in pueuto vallarta. one of our dearest friends the berman family of calgary, alberta, canada

the bermans - June 15, 2019 at 06:11 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Rev. Father James F. Vennix.



June 15, 2019 at 02:46 PM



“ Fr. Jim was my Dad's kid brother and was always very special to me. I loved all his jokes and funny stories, there was always laughter when he was around. When he was ordained a Priest in 1956, my cousin Mikki and I had the honor of pouring coffee at his reception.....pretty exciting for 14 and 15 year olds! In 1962 Fr. Jim married John and I in MN, and in 1964 he baptized our 1st baby. He often stopped to visit my Mom and all of us whenever he and Alice traveled through MN. In 2012, he and Alice joined us for our 50th Anniversary here in St. Paul. It meant a lot to have him here with us. Our last visit with him was September 2018 in Waupaca where we again reminisced about old times and told stories. Through cards, phone calls and visits we kept in touch and he always ended with "God Bless". He was a very special and loved person.

Norella (Vennix) Urban

Norella Urban - June 15, 2019 at 11:21 AM



“ Fr. Jim’s example of priestly ministry shall remain an example to me always. He did all he could to make people feel welcome in the Church and to help them experience God’s love and mercy. May Fr. Jim rest in peace.

“Well done, good and faithful servant.”

Fr. Kurt J. Klismet, O.S.S.T. - June 14, 2019 at 06:19 PM



“ 4 files added to the tribute wall



Alan Vennix - June 14, 2019 at 06:12 PM



“ My memories of Father Jim (Jimmy to me) go back some 75 years to the early 1940's, when we lived in Marinette during the time my father (Jimmy's brother Henry) was in the Army and Jim was a young teenager. We would often go to my grandparent's house and Jim was always ready to play catch or hide and go seek with us. Their house was large and had a basement so plenty of places to run and hide. Jim occasionally 'baby sat' us if Mom would go out with Grandma and Grandpa; those were fun times because Jim always entertained us with funny stories or games. After the war we moved to Minnesota and didn't see Jim us much until he entered the seminary only an hour or so from our home. We went to see him in the seminary and he would come to our house on holidays when he didn't go back to Wisconsin. I remember well his first Mass where Dave and I were his altar boys and I was really nervous with all the priests who were there. After I married Rina and moved to Texas our visits became less frequent, but we did make it home for special occasions when the whole family got together in Marinette or St. Paul and Jim (now Father Jim) would be there. In the latter years we visited Jim at several of his parishes and attended his 50th Anniversary Mass in Waupaca with my brother and sister and their spouses.

It was a special blessing for Rina and me to be with Father Jim for 5 days right before his fall. We would come each morning and he would get up and visit with us as he had his glass of water. While his short term memory was poor he could remember and talk about things from the past and we had many good laughs with him. Before leaving on our last day we prayed with Father Jim and he gave us his priestly blessing and wished us a safe trip back home. That special time with him will remain with us forever and we are so thankful for that time and for all his good friends who made us feel so welcome, especially Barb and Roger and Romaine. May you rest in peace, Father Jim. It's a beautiful day in Waupaca!

Alan Vennix

Alan Vennix - June 14, 2019 at 01:36 PM



“ 10 files added to the album Father Jim through the years



Alan Vennix - June 14, 2019 at 10:50 AM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Alan Vennix - June 14, 2019 at 10:23 AM



“ Jim at 2 years old

Alan - June 14, 2019 at 12:21 PM



“ Thank you for sharing your pictures. So precious. Father Jim was a blessing to all, especially in Waupaca.

Peggy Z - June 17, 2019 at 02:39 PM



“ Fr. Jim, Thank you for the gift of you in my life. Joanne Ehrhardt

Joanne Ehrhardt - June 14, 2019 at 12:09 AM



“ Long before Father Jim became Father Jim, he was just Jim to me. He was my uncle and was only 10 years older than me. I remember him teaching me how to color in circles so that nobody could see where I started or ended. I must have been 6 or 7 and he joined me on the floor of Grandma Nora's living room to show me how to color. He was always genuinely interested in everyone and very kind and really really funny! I was blessed to have him in my life. And now he's one of the angels who walk with me every day.

Mikki Melton - June 13, 2019 at 09:41 PM



“ You are so blessed to have had him as an uncle! He was our pastor at SMM and by far the most powerful spiritual leader I have ever had.

Barbara - June 14, 2019 at 08:55 AM



“ Lily and Rose Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Re. Father James F. Vennix.



June 13, 2019 at 03:49 PM