MONSIGNOR JAMES GEIGER PASSES AWAY

COLUMBUS – Monsignor James Austin Geiger, long-serving priest in the Diocese of Columbus, died Wednesday, May 8, 2019, while in skilled nursing care at Mother Angeline McCrory Manor.

The son of Clemence and Rose (Burger) Geiger, Msgr. Geiger was born on February 17, 1925, in Bucyrus, Ohio. He graduated from Saint Ignatius High School, Cleveland, Ohio, followed by seminary formation and college studies at Columbus’ Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary. He continued his theological studies and seminary formation at Mount Saint Mary’s of the West, Cincinnati, Ohio; prior to his graduation, Msgr. Geiger was chosen to be a “student priest” and was ordained a priest of the Diocese of Columbus at the Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary Mother of Mercy Chapel by Most Rev. Michael Ready on August 15, 1950.

Msgr. Geiger later received a doctorate in philosophy from the Pontifical University of Saint Thomas Aquinas, Rome, Italy, and also studied at the University of Salzburg, Austria; Georgetown University, Washington, D.C.; and the Ohio State University, Columbus.
During his 69 years of priestly ministry, Msgr. Geiger served as an instructor at the Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary and Preparatory School, Columbus, including as chair of the Philosophy Department. He also served as associate pastor, St. Joseph Cathedral, Columbus; weekend assistant, St. Philip the Apostle Parish, Columbus; pastor, St. John Parish, Logan; associate pastor, St. Mary Parish, Lancaster; and pastor, St. Joseph Parish, Sugar Grove, until his retirement in 2009. Msgr. Geiger was named a “prelate of honor” (Monsignor) by Pope John Paul II in 1999.

He also served as a member of the diocesan tribunal, the diocesan board of consultors and the diocesan liturgical commission, chaplain of several Knights of Columbus Councils, moderator of the Diocesan Council of Catholic Nurses, and chaplain of the Columbus Circle of the Daughters of Isabella.

Calling hours for Msgr. Geiger will be Monday, May 13, at St. Joseph Church, 308 Elm Street, Sugar Grove, from 2-7 p.m., concluding with a Rosary. Calling hours will resume at the church on Tuesday, May 14, at 9:30 a.m., concluding just prior to the Mass of Christian Burial at 11 a.m. The Most Rev. Robert J. Brennan, Bishop of Columbus, will celebrate the Mass and preach the homily; Bishop Emeritus Frederick Campbell and Bishop Emeritus James Griffin will concelebrate, along with the priests of the Diocese. Burial will take place on Thursday, May 16, at St. Bernard Cemetery in New Washington, Ohio.

In lieu of flowers contributions may be made to Saint Joseph Church, 308 Elm Street, Sugar Grove, Ohio, 43155. Letters of condolence may be left at www.robertsfuneralhomelogan.com.

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