

Dear Parishioners,

It is with sadness that I send you the news of the death of Fr. Albert Azrak, C.S.S. He passed away on Tuesday, April 14, 2020. He was a resident of St. Patrick Manor in Framingham, Massachusetts for several years. To his beloved family and his Stigmatine community our heartfelt sympathy is extended and our prayers are offered for the repose of his gracious soul and for their comfort and peace.

Father Azrak had a long and storied relationship with Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish. After his priestly ordination on June 4, 1960 he was assigned here as a curate and remained in ministry until 1966. During those years he deeply involved himself in the youth apostolate (known then as the CYC) and was a familiar face to so many young people in the parish school of Sacred Heart of Jesus and our religious education program. He returned as Pastor in 1978 and dedicated his generous priestly life to the spiritual life and temporal work of our parish until 1994. He was instrumental in the renovation of the lower church, the chapel of the Holy Spouses Mary and Joseph, and the creation of the Bell Tower Room, our parish social center. His fidelity to his priestly life and his generous, loving spirit towards the People of God for nearly 60 years will be fondly remembered.

Due to the present pandemic that affects us and the restrictions placed on us the Funeral Liturgy of Christian Burial for Father Azrak has been deferred. A private Rite of Committal was celebrated in the presence of his family and his Stigmatine confreres. When the restrictions regarding public gatherings have been lifted parishioners will be notified when the memorial Mass is to be celebrated.

In this liturgical weekend of Divine Mercy let us humbly yet resolutely call upon Jesus Christ, the source font of God's love and mercy, to strengthen our commitment to our faith, to restore our lives and livelihood, to heal and strengthen the sick and suffering and to give us hope and joy in the days ahead. Please know that all of you are in my heart, my thoughts and my prayers. God bless you.

Your friend in Christ Jesus,

Fr. Richard