



Catholic Diocese of Columbus

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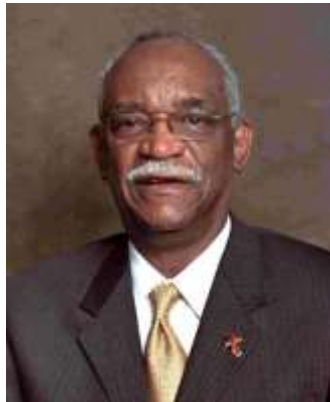
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News

DATE: January 30, 2017

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DEACON ROBERT A. NEELY PASSES AWAY



COLUMBUS – Rev. Mr. Robert A. Neely passed away on Thursday, January 26, 2017, following an extended illness.

Deacon Neely was born on July 14, 1937, to Mansfield and Allie Mae (Tunstall) Neely in Nashville, Tennessee. He was ordained to the permanent diaconate on February 17, 1990, by the Most Rev. James A. Griffin, Bishop of Columbus.

He served in diaconal ministry at St. Dominic and Holy Rosary/St. John Catholic parishes in Columbus. He also served at Holy Rosary/St. John as business manager; as a temporary Deacon Administrator at St. Dominic; as a part-time chaplain at Marion Correctional Institution in Marion, Ohio; and was actively involved in Kairos Prison Ministry. He was honored as Clergy of the Year by the Diocesan Office of Black Catholic Ministries at their annual "In God's Service" event for high school youth in 2014.

Deacon Neely received his education at St. Emma Military Academy in Rock Castle, Virginia, and studied liberal arts at Fisk University, Nashville. He later studied heating technology at Columbus State Community College and Ohio State University.

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DEACON ROBERT A. NEELY - 2222222222

He spent the majority of his professional career as an environmental engineering draftsman with Western Electric, Rackoff Associates, Design Enterprise, P.E. Martin, and Assoc. Inc., and Malcom Pirnie, Inc.

Deacon Neely spent many years prior to his discernment as a deacon working with young people at Buckeye Youth Correction Institute (TICO) and was active in the Cursillo Movement. He entered the diocesan CHRISM Lay Ministry Program in 1986 in preparation for studies to the permanent diaconate. He is survived by his wife Grace (Thompson) Neely and four children.

Deacon Neely's body will be received at St. Dominic Church, 453 N. 20th Street, Columbus, on Wednesday, February 1 at noon; visitation will be from noon-2 p.m. and 5-7 p.m., with vigil service at 7 p.m. The Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10 a.m., Thursday, February 2, at St. Dominic. The Most Rev. Frederick F. Campbell, Bishop of Columbus, will be the principal celebrant and Father Denis Kigozi will be the homilist. Interment will be at Resurrection Cemetery in Lewis Center.