



Catholic Diocese of Columbus

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News

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DEACON FRANCIS X. MCDEVITT PASSES AWAY



COLUMBUS – Rev. Mr. Francis Xavier McDevitt, retired deacon of the Diocese of Columbus, passed away on Wednesday, February 15, 2017, following a brief illness.

Deacon McDevitt was born on June 5, 1932, in Reading, Pennsylvania, to William A. and Anna (Henke) McDevitt.

He graduated from Reading Catholic High School and served in the United States Air Force from 1951-1971, attending both the University of Tennessee and the University of Wisconsin during his service. After discharge, he was employed with Liquid Carbonic Corp., in Elizabeth, New Jersey, and later in Oconto, Wisconsin.

Deacon McDevitt began his diaconal formation at the Sacred Heart Center in Oneida in 1974, and was one of the first permanent deacon candidates in the Diocese of Green Bay. He was ordained to the permanent diaconate on May 7, 1977, by the Most Rev. Aloysius J. Wycislo, Bishop of Green Bay, at the Diocese's St. Francis Xavier Cathedral.

He was assigned to diaconal ministry at St. Joseph Parish, Oconto, and later to both St. Joseph and St. Peter parishes, Oconto, until his job transfer to Columbus in 1984.

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DEACON FRANCIS X. MCDEVITT - 2 of 2

Deacon McDevitt applied for faculties and later was granted incardination to the Diocese of Columbus by the Most Rev. James A. Griffin, Bishop of Columbus.

He was subsequently assigned to St. Ladislav Parish, Columbus. During his time at St. Ladislav, he also served as the associate director for ordained deacons in the Diocesan Office of the Diaconate. He was later assigned to St. Elizabeth Parish, Columbus, serving there until his retirement in 2010.

Deacon McDevitt was preceded in death by his wife, Joan, and his son, Edwin; he is survived by sons Gregory, Kevin, and Michael, daughter Christine, and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Deacon McDevitt's body will be received at St. Elizabeth Church, 6077 Sharon Woods Boulevard, Columbus, on Monday, February 20, at 9:30 a.m., where visitation will take place until the Mass of the Resurrection is celebrated at 11 a.m. Father Charles Cotton, retired priest of the Diocese, will be the celebrant; Father Ramon Owera, CFIC, administrator at St. Elizabeth, will concelebrate; Deacon Dean Racine, St. Paul the Apostle Parish, Westerville, will be the homilist. Burial will be at Kingswood Memorial Cemetery in Delaware County.