



Catholic Diocese of Columbus

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News

DATE: March 7, 2017

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DEACON ROBERT EUGENE STAKER PASSES AWAY

COLUMBUS –Rev. Mr. Robert Eugene (Gene) Staker, retired deacon of the Diocese of Columbus, passed away on Saturday, March 4, following an extended illness.

Deacon Staker was born on June 27, 1936, at his family's farm in Duncan Falls, outside of Zanesville, Ohio, to Robert and Virginia (Fulmer) Staker. He graduated from Duncan Falls' Philo High School and attended both Ohio State University and Muskingum Area Technical College (MATC). He was long-time employee of Ohio Ferro Alloys Corp. as well as spending many years in farming and agriculture.

He received his diaconal formation at The Sacred Heart Center, Shelby, Ohio. He was ordained to the permanent diaconate on May 28, 1983, by the Most Rev. James A. Griffin, Bishop of Columbus, at St. Joseph Cathedral.

Deacon Staker was assigned to diaconal ministry at St. Nicholas Parish, Zanesville. After a job relocation in 1985, he served at Our Lady Queen of Mercy Parish, Montgomery, Alabama, until his retirement in 1988. He then returned to serve at St. Nicholas and remained there until his retirement from diaconal ministry in 2015. Following his retirement from ministry, he provided hospital ministry to those who were chronically and terminally ill.

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Deacon Staker is survived by his wife, Mary Lou (Wolfe) Staker, his three children, Douglas, Kama and Kerby, and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Calling hours will be on Thursday, March 9, at the Hills, Combs, Nestor Funeral Home, 935 Forest Ave., Zanesville, from 2-4 p.m. and 6-8 p.m., and a vigil service will be held at 7:45 p.m. Deacon Staker's body will then be received at St. Nicholas Catholic Church, 955 East Main St., Zanesville, on Friday, March 10, at 9 a.m.; viewing will be held at the church until the celebration of the Mass of the Resurrection at 11 a.m. Father Martin Ralko, pastor of St. Nicholas Parish, will preside and be the homilist; Deacon Pete Peterson will assist at the Mass. Priests of the Diocese are invited to concelebrate; Deacons are invited to vest and assist. Burial will follow the Mass at Mt. Olive Cemetery, Zanesville.