

# Archdiocese of Detroit

For Immediate Release April 15, 2005

## Fr. John West, Ecumenical and Interfaith Advisor

Fr. John West, ecumenical and interfaith advisor for the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Detroit and pastor of Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, Farmington, died Thursday evening, April 14, at Providence Hospital, Southfield. Fr. West, 52, was transported via ambulance to the hospital after having collapsed at his doctor's office in Novi.

Deeply saddened by the news that reached the Pontifical North American College in Rome, Cardinal Maida, preparing for the upcoming conclave, offered his morning Mass for Fr. West, for his parish community, his family and his friends.

Ordained in 1980 after studies at Sacred Heart Major Seminary, the University of Detroit, and St. John's Provincial Seminary, Plymouth, Fr. West held a wide variety of positions, both in parishes and at the archdiocese.

In addition to serving at Our Lady of Sorrows Parish and as ecumenical and interfaith advisor, his more recent assignments included: professor at SS. Cyril and Methodius Seminary, Orchard Lake; staff theologian for the Education and Communications Departments; columnist for *The Michigan Catholic*; spiritual advisor for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul; and Catholic Ethicist for Angela Hospice, Livonia, and Lourdes, Inc., Waterford.

"John West was always gracious and generous to us in the Communications Department. For every one media interview he did at our behest, he was involved with a dozen or more projects 'behind the scenes'—advising us on theological issues, facilitating 'back channel' dialogues, proofreading our printed materials. We've lost a tremendous resource and a great friend," said Ned McGrath, director of communications for the archdiocese.

**A curriculum vitae on Fr. West, together with a picture of Fr. West, statements from religious leaders and a copy of this news release, can be found online at [www.aodonline.org](http://www.aodonline.org) under News & Publications.**

"Fr. West touched every single aspect of Church life in the Archdiocese of Detroit through his many assignments. He was a consummate teacher who bore witness to what he preached in the way that he lived – with charity, humility and generosity," said Msgr. John Zenz, moderator of the curia for the Archdiocese of Detroit.

"He was always available, ready and willing to tackle any challenge. He represented the Church in a very humble, but effective manner in the world of interfaith dialogue. He will be greatly, greatly missed."

Visitation for Fr. West will be on Sunday, April 17, from 1 to 9 p.m. at Wujek – Calcaterra & Sons Funeral Home, 54880 Van Dyke (at 25 Mile), Shelby Township (telephone 586-677-4000). His body will lie in state on Monday, April 18, at Our Lady of Sorrows Church, 23815 Power Rd., Farmington. Visitation will be from 2 to 9 p.m. with a Prayer Service at 7 p.m.

Visitation will continue at Our Lady of Sorrows Church on Tuesday, April 19, at 10 a.m. prior to the celebration of his funeral Mass at 11 a.m. Burial will be at St. Paul Cemetery, Grosse Pointe Farms.

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