



***I am the resurrection and the life, said the Lord:
he who believes in me will never die. (John 11:25-26).***

April 15, 2005

Dear Father:

Our brother and fellow priest, Father John H. West, entered eternal life on April 14, 2005, at the age of 52.

Ordained for the Archdiocese of Detroit on May 31, 1980, he served as associate pastor of Divine Child Parish, Dearborn, and St. Edmund Parish, Warren. In 1984, Fr. West was appointed to the faculty of Sacred Heart Major Seminary, Detroit, where he served full-time in addition to his duties as administrator of St. Anne Parish, Monroe, and Our Lady of Guadalupe Mission, Port Huron.

In 1985, Fr. West was appointed Associate Director of Vocations, while continuing on the faculty at Sacred Heart Major Seminary. In 1988, he was appointed to graduate studies in Rome. After returning from Rome in 1992, Fr. West served as pastor of St. Joseph Parish, Monroe.

In 1993, Fr. West was appointed Director for Catechetics/Religious Education, in addition to serving as temporary administrator of St. Fabian Parish, Farmington Hills. He was then appointed Rector of St. John Center for Youth and Family, Plymouth, in 1996. In addition, he served as the Moral Theologian within the Archdiocese, Catholic Ethicist for Angela Hospice, Livonia, Lourdes, Inc., Waterford, and a columnist for the *Michigan Catholic Newspaper*.

In 1999, Fr. West was appointed Detroit Archdiocesan Spiritual Director and Midwest Region (lower MI, OH, IN, KY) Spiritual Director for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. During this time, he also served as temporary administrator of Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Detroit. In July of 2001, Fr. West served as pastor of St. Rita Parish, Holly, and he was appointed the Ecumenical and Interfaith Advisor for the Archdiocese. He served as a member of the Presbyteral Council from 2001-2003.

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While continuing his duties as Moral Theologian, Spiritual Director for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, visiting professor of Sacred Heart Major Seminary and SS. Cyril and Methodius Seminary, Orchard Lake, Ecumenical and Interfaith Advisor, in 2003, he was appointed pastor of Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, Farmington, where he was currently serving.

Funeral arrangements are being handled by Wujek-Calcaterra & Sons, Inc., 54880 Van Dyke, Shelby Township (586-677-4000). Visitation at the funeral home will be on Sunday, April 17, from 1 until 9 p.m. Fr. West's body will be transferred to Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, 23815 Power Road, Farmington (248-474-5720) on Monday, April 18. His body will lie in state at the parish and visitation will take place from 2 until 9 p.m. with a Vigil Service at 7 p.m. Visitation will continue at the parish on Tuesday, April 19, beginning at 10 a.m. until the celebration of his funeral Mass at 11 a.m. Burial will take place at St. Paul Cemetery, Grosse Pointe Farms.

Fr. West is survived by his parents, Edmund and Maxine West, Jr.; a brother, Paul (Diane); sisters, Mary West, Jane Martin, Ann (Kenneth) Grimm, and Judith (Bruce) Naber; one niece; five nephews; and one great niece and one great nephew. Condolences may be sent to Mr. and Mrs. Edmund West, Jr., 8446 Stanford Circle, South, Apartment D, Washington Township, MI 48094.

Kindly include in the general intercessions of your weekend liturgies a prayer for the repose of the soul of Fr. West. Keep him in your prayers and include him in the Masses celebrated in accord with our revised Mass Pact.

Fraternally yours in the Lord,

Adam Cardinal Maida
Archbishop of Detroit