



Rev. Dennis F. Settles

December 23, 1939 - September 16, 2018

Rev. Dennis F. Settles, age 78, of Kankakee, passed away Sunday, September 16, 2018 at Presence Merkle-Knipprath Nursing Home in Clifton. He was born December 23, 1939 in Kankakee, the son of Howard H. & Lucille E. Pelletier Settles. He was baptized at St. Patrick Catholic Church in Kankakee.

After attending St. Stanislaus Elementary School and graduating in 1957 from St. Patrick High School in Kankakee, he entered Holy Cross Seminary in La Crosse, Wisconsin prior to entering St. Procopius Seminary in Lisle. On May 22, 1965, after ordination to the priesthood at the Cathedral of St. Raymond in Joliet by Bishop Martin D. McNamara, Father Settles was assigned to St. John Parish in Villa Park. Subsequent assignments as parochial vicar included St. Mary Parish in Plainfield (1968), St. Joseph Parish in Joliet (1968), and St. Joseph Parish in Downers Grove (1972).

Father Settles was appointed Diocesan Vocation Director and Director of Clergy Development in 1978, with residence at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Romeoville. He was named pastor of St. Patrick Parish in Momence and Sacred Heart Mission in Hopkins Park (1980), and in 1989, he was named pastor of St. Pius X Parish in Lombard. In 1992, Father Settles became pastor of St. Martin Parish in Kankakee where he served until his retirement in 2010.

Other responsibilities of Father Settles included: Pro-Synodal Judge of the Tribunal (1983), Dean of the East DuPage Deanery (1991), and Diocesan

Consultor (1993).

Father Dennis collected Lladros and Waterford. Fr. Dennis enjoyed cruises with his family and loved to travel to England.

He was an avid soccer fan and Chicago Cub fan.

Surviving are one sister, Therese Lucille Falkenhan of Manteno; one brother, James Settles of Manteno; 11 nieces and nephews; and many great-nieces and great-nephews.

He is preceded in death by his parents; one brother-in-law, Herman Falkenhan; and one sister-in-law, Mary Settles.

The body of Father Settles will lie in state at St. John Paul II Church – West Campus (956 S. 10th Avenue) from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 20, 2018. Visitation will also be held from 9:00 a.m. to 10:50 a.m. on Friday, September 21, 2018.

Mass of Christian Burial will be held at St. John Paul II Church – West Campus on Friday, September 21, 2018 at 11:00 a.m.

Interment will follow in All Saints Cemetery in Bourbonnais.

Memorials may be made to St. John Paul II Catholic Church or The Glenmary Sisters.

Arrangements by Clancy-Gernon Funeral Home. Please sign his guestbook at www.clancygernon.com .

Cemetery Details

All Saints Cemetery

1839 W. Route 102
Bourbonnais, IL 60914
(815) 933-2342

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP 20. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

St. John Paul II - West Campus
953 South 9th Avenue
Kankakee, IL 60901

Visitation

SEP 21. 9:00 AM - 10:50 AM (CT)

St. John Paul II - West Campus
953 South 9th Avenue
Kankakee, IL 60901

Funeral Mass

SEP 21. 11:00 AM (CT)

St. John Paul II - West Campus
953 South 9th Avenue
Kankakee, IL 60901

Tribute Wall

TB

“ *He was a good lad*

TBFK(SMT) - June 19, 2025 at 12:50 AM

MR

“ *I met Father Settles only once, during a Cursillo weekend a number of years ago. His compassionate responses during reconciliation were very meaningful and helpful to me. I have never forgotten him.*

I wish to extend my sympathy to Fr. Dennis' family and to all feel the loss of his ministry and his presence.

Mary Ann Reed - October 03, 2018 at 01:24 PM

KG

“ *Father Settles had two home Masses for my late husband and I. He played Boggle with us and told us some really funny stories about himself and other priests.*

He was a really kind person.

Karen Giefer. Downers Grove

Karen Giefer - September 25, 2018 at 09:51 PM

RC

“ I am sorry I was not able to attend Fr. Dennis’s wake or funeral. I remember Fr. From Cursillo and traveled to London with him and Fr. Jim Schwab in 1998. Fr. was always a delight to be around, a friendly outgoing and spiritually devout man. He will truly be missed. May the Lord grant him Eternal Rest in His Kingdom; I pray for his family and friends, that Christ will touch their hearts with healing and peace.

Deacon Ray Clark
Church of St. Jude, Joliet

Raymond Clark - September 24, 2018 at 07:06 AM

MF

“ I worked at the rectory at St Pius with Father Settles. His kindness and leadership will be forever cherished. Eternal rest grant upon him and God’s perpetual light shine upon him.

maryanhthu do and family - September 23, 2018 at 11:42 AM

SW

“ Sarah & Rachel Windmiller lit a candle in memory of Rev. Dennis F. Settles



Sarah & Rachel Windmiller - September 21, 2018 at 12:30 PM

Loretta
Nolte
Eich

“ May God hold you in the palm of his hand. He was and always will be missed at St Martin of Tours.
Loretta Nolte Eich



Loretta Nolte Eich - September 21, 2018 at 08:33 AM

KT

“ *Kim & Kourtnee Thompson lit a candle in memory of Rev. Dennis F. Settles*



Kim & Kourtnee Thompson - September 21, 2018 at 07:11 AM

LG

“ *Laura Guimond lit a candle in memory of Rev. Dennis F. Settles*



Laura Guimond - September 19, 2018 at 09:03 PM

LG

Father Settles was a great priest, caring person who led the spiritual way while I was at St. Martin's. Altar-serving and being a Eucharistic minister has brought me closer to the Catholic faith. May the Lord in Jesus Christ be with you and rest in peace.

Laura Guimond - September 19, 2018 at 09:08 PM

SD

“ I went to St. Patrick Academy in Momenca when Father Settles was there. I am now a worship leader for the praise team in my church in St.Louis and just talking to our congregation about one of Father Settles lessons to us last Sunday - his #1 lesson to us as kids: Grace = God’s love. I talked about this before our praise song “I Love Your Grace” and then our pastor used it as his benediction. What an incredible man. His lessons, kindness, and example to us all will live on. I’ll never forget how he allowed my sister and I to be altar servers even though we weren’t Catholic, because to him it was more important we were included and had the experience. What a man. He was so special and I will never forget him or his lessons to me.

Scott Degitz-Fries - September 19, 2018 at 05:59 PM

RM

“ St. Martin owes a great thanks to this kind and gentle soul for his leadership of our parish. My husband and I were fortunate to have Father Settles bless our marriage, and we are thankful for his willingness to officiate over the small ceremony we shared. He made the time and the ceremony special for us. He was a shining example of the loving and giving nature of the Church, and he will be missed by many. Rest in peace Father.


Rose & Gary Mitchell - September 19, 2018 at 09:58 AM

MF

“ Peace and love Uncle Den. So many memories and love, your nephew Marc.

Marc Falkenhan - September 18, 2018 at 11:52 PM

PH

“ *Father Settles gave me my instruction in the Catholic faith during his first year in Momence, which was also my first year of teaching. There is a special place in my heart for him always. He was a special priest & a special friend.* 



Pam Huppmann - September 18, 2018 at 08:54 PM



“ *Thank you for helping me through First Communion. Love from Jeff Blumenthal.*

Jeff Blumenthal - September 18, 2018 at 08:06 PM

ET

Peter and I want to send our deepest condolences to Father's family. Peter so enjoyed his friendship when Peter was a chair for holiday decorations at St. Martin's. Father enjoyed mysteries so when I worked at the Kankakee Public Library we had some delightful visits about books. We will miss his kindness and patience.

Evelyn Torchia - September 20, 2018 at 05:31 PM

JM

“ *Fr Settles: You have been a true inspiration of living your life to follow the example of the good Shepherd, Jesus Christ, by your gentle, compassion and loving ways. Now you are with your savior. We will miss you. Thank you for shepherding us for so long, administering our sacraments, offering mass and your prayers. Praying for you and your family, Rest In Peace Jane McLin and family*



Jane McLin - September 18, 2018 at 07:19 PM

DF

“ Uncle Den thank you for all you did for me in my younger life. You made me understand the catholic religion more than I think I ever wanted too!! LOL Rest in peace now that you have gone home. You will be missed by all. And Loved by All of us. Love Debbie.

Debbie Falkenhan - September 18, 2018 at 06:32 PM

SH

“ I lite a candle in memory of Rev. Dennis Settles. I will always remember his gentle, compassionated care as he visited the sick in our Nursing Home. Blessings upon him, Sr. Martha,sscm



Sr, Martha Harrington,sscm - September 18, 2018 at 05:21 PM

CW

Father Dennis was a kind and wonderful priest. I got to know him when he was at St. Pius X in Lombard. Those of us who knew him very blessed. Rest in Peace, Father Settles.
Carol Weiland

Carol Weiland - September 19, 2018 at 12:15 AM



Father Settles was a priest at St. John the Apostle Church in Villa Park when my siblings and I attended grade school there. He volunteered at the school and I will always remember his kindness and care. Rest in Peace. Jeanne Boeh Fleming

Jeanne Boeh - October 08, 2020 at 09:46 PM

LS

“ Lynn C Sheehan lit a candle in memory of
Rev. Dennis F. Settles



lynn c sheehan - September 18, 2018 at 04:40 PM

TH

“ Tim & Jennifer Haut lit a candle in memory of
Rev. Dennis F. Settles



Tim & Jennifer Haut - September 18, 2018 at 03:18 PM

NV

“ Norma J. Vaughn lit a candle in memory of
Rev. Dennis F. Settles



Norma J. Vaughn - September 18, 2018 at 03:09 PM

NV

“ Heaven has just received another Angel, Father Settles was just an
all around wonderful (Guy) Priest. Everyone that knew him knows
what I am saying, soft spoken, caring,wonderful. He will be missed
but he is Happy now being with the LORD. Rest In Peace Father.

Norma J. Vaughn - September 18, 2018 at 03:08 PM

CW

“ *Well done good and faithful servant. Thank you for believing in me and guiding me while at St. Martin's. You will be greatly missed.*



Christopher Wilcox - September 18, 2018 at 02:17 PM

KT

“ *Kristine Trombley lit a candle in memory of Rev. Dennis F. Settles*



Kristine Trombley - September 18, 2018 at 02:10 PM

ME

“ *Michelle Erwin lit a candle in memory of Rev. Dennis F. Settles*



Michelle Erwin - September 18, 2018 at 02:01 PM