



Rev. Michael P. Keliher C.S.V.

February 18, 1947 - September 10, 2021

Rev. Michael P. Keliher, C.S.V., age 74, passed away Sept. 10, 2021 at the Viatorian Province Center in Arlington Heights, Illinois.

Fr. Keliher was born Feb. 18, 1947 in Kankakee, Illinois, the son of Joseph and Verna (Hudson) Keliher. He made his first profession Sept. 1, 1966 and was ordained a priest by Bishop Romeo Blanchette at St. Patrick Parish in Kankakee, on June 12, 1976. He was preceded in death by his parents and his brother, Thomas J. Keliher.

Fr. Keliher met the Viatorians when he attended Bishop McNamara High School in Kankakee. He went on to earn a B.S. degree in biology and pre-medicine in 1970 from Loyola University, Chicago, and a Master of Divinity from Catholic Theological Union, Chicago in 1975.

Fr. Keliher taught biology and coached both wrestling and golf at St. Viator High School from 1970-1972 and from 1976-1985. He served as parochial vicar at Maternity B.V.M. Parish in Bourbonnais and at St. Viator Parish in Las Vegas before being named pastor of St. Jude Church in Rochester, IL in 1995. He returned to Kankakee to serve as parochial vicar at St. Patrick Parish, before serving in the same role at St. Viator Parish in Chicago and at St. Thomas More Parish in Henderson, NV. He served one year as administrator at St. Thomas More before moving to the Viatorian Province Center residence

in July 2019 when he retired.

Fr. Mike is survived by nieces, Lindsey Keliher of Tampa, FL and Brooke Anderson of Hainesport, NJ; great-nephew, Austin Anderson; and sister-in-law, Peggy Keliher.

Visitation for Fr. Keliher will be held at 10:00 a.m. Thursday, Sept. 16, 2021 at St. Patrick Catholic Church in Kankakee, followed by a Mass of Christian burial at 11:00 a.m.

Interment will be at Mt. Calvary Cemetery in Kankakee.

Memorials may be made to the Clerics of St. Viator.

Cemetery Details

Mount Calvary

2000 E. Court St.
Kankakee, IL

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP **16**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Patrick Catholic Church
428 S. Indiana
Kankakee, IL 60901
(815) 932-6716

Funeral Mass

SEP **16**. 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Patrick Catholic Church
428 S. Indiana
Kankakee, IL 60901
(815) 932-6716

Tribute Wall

JM

“ *John And Stephanie Mulzet lit a candle in memory of Rev. Michael P. Keliher C.S.V.*



John and Stephanie Mulzet - October 26, 2021 at 04:48 PM

MM

“ *Our family loved Fr. Mike. We have wonderful memories of enjoying his company at church. He joined us on our boat for a lake day a few years ago. It was a great day! Fr. Mike loved to soak up the sun. You're with our father now.*

Martha Martin - September 16, 2021 at 02:17 PM

GH

“ *Thank you Father Mike for your encouragement, wisdom and love. You left an indelible imprint on so many lives during your time at St. Thomas More Catholic Community. Your classes during bible study and RCIA always mesmerized the group. I will always love the Book of Isaiah based on your instruction and insight.*



Blessings to you my friend.

Glenda Hoagland - September 16, 2021 at 01:51 PM

SH

“ *Sr. Martha Harrington lite a candle in memory of Fr. Michael P.Keliher God Bless him for his inspiring Masses and his Ministry for us.*



Sr. Martha Harrington,sscm - September 14, 2021 at 09:50 PM

SB

I am thankful for Father Mike's inspiration and encouragement when I went through RCIA and Bible studies. He was a cherished friend, and I will miss him.

Simon Boger - September 18, 2021 at 02:22 PM

TF

“ *Our deepest condolences for the family of Father Mike. Father Mike guided us through catechism at St. Viators in the mid 1990's and then officiated at our second marriage as Catholics after he baptized us. We have seen and spoken to him on occasions after that year and will always hold him dear to our hearts. He meant a lot to us and has changed our lives for the best forever. May he Rest In Peace and always remain in the hearts of everyone that he touched.*
Theodore and Sandra Farrar

Theodor and Sandra Farrar - September 14, 2021 at 03:49 PM