



Fr. Richard J Pighini C.S.V.

April 19, 1944 - August 21, 2023

Fr. Richard J. Pighini, C.S.V., a Viatorian for 43 years, died August 21, 2023 at Addolorata Villa in Wheeling. He was 79 years old. Fr. Pighini pronounced his first vows on July 12, 1980 and was ordained by Bishop Raymond Vonesh on April 27, 1985 at St. Patrick Church in Kankakee.

Fr. Richard attended Maine East High School in Park Ridge before earning a B.A. in Communication Design from University of Illinois and a Master of Divinity from Catholic Theological Union, both in Chicago. From 1967 to 1969 he was a member of the Peace Corps in Hawaii. From 1970 to 1978 he was a teacher at St. Patrick's Grade School in Kankakee. He taught religion at Bishop McNamara High School in Kankakee (1978-79) and Griffin High School in Springfield (1980-81 & 1985-1989). From 1984 to 1985 he served as deacon at St. Patrick Parish., Kankakee, returned to St. Patrick Parish in 1989 as Parochial Vicar and was named Pastor from 1994 to 2004. He then served as Pastor of Maternity BVM Parish in Bourbonnais from 2004 to 2018. He retired in residence at St. Patrick Parish in Kankakee 2018 before moving in 2022 to the retirement community at the Province Center in Arlington Heights. He was always known for his care for the liturgy, as well as the beauty of the gardens

and landscapes of the parish grounds.

Fr. Pighini is survived by his sisters, Carlotta Polenzani of Prospect Heights and Claudette

Schmied of Naperville. He was preceded in death by his parents, Richard and Justine Pighini.

Visitation will be held from 4 to 8 p.m. on August 25, 2023 at Maternity BVM Parish in Bourbonnais,

before a Mass of Christian Burial takes place at 10 a.m. August 26, 2023 at Maternity BVM Parish.

Internment will take place at Maternity BVM Cemetery.

Arrangements are being handled by Clancy-Gernon Funeral Home, Bourbonnais.

Cemetery Details

Maternity Cemetery

Corner of Canterbury Lane & William Latham
Dr.
Bourbonnais, IL 60914

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 25. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Maternity B.V.M. Catholic Church
308 E. Marsile
Bourbonnais, IL 60914
(815) 933-8285
<http://www.mbvmchurch.org/>

Funeral Mass

AUG 26. 10:00 AM (CT)

Maternity B.V.M. Catholic Church
308 E. Marsile
Bourbonnais, IL 60914
(815) 933-8285
<http://www.mbvmchurch.org/>

Tribute Wall

IB

“ So sorry to see that my former classmate at St. Columbkille's has passed away. We re-connected about five years ago and had many talks about our old neighborhood and the many Sisters of Providence that taught us. I'm sure he's watching over us!

Isabelle Bertone - December 12, 2023 at 08:53 AM

TF

“ The Geisler Family lit a candle in memory of Fr. Richard J Pighini C.S.V.



The Geisler Family - August 26, 2023 at 01:28 PM

MC

“ Mr. Pighini was my 8th grade teacher at St Patrick's in 1976. I knew him prior to that though because he taught other classes. I would stay after school sometime and spend time talking with him about anything. He was a great listener. At the start of some of our classes, he would have the whole class meditate for like 10 minutes or so to just chill out. Remember he played the Jesus Christ Superstar record in religion class. Went to visit him in 2019 while he was living at St.Pats and spend more than 2 hours talking to him and catching up with him. Picture is from that visit. Wanted to visit Richard more but it never happened. It's so important to make time to visit loved ones before you lose the chance. So glad I got the chance to spend some time with Father Pighini - wish I had more. He was a great person and he will be missed.



Matthew Chavez - August 26, 2023 at 12:06 AM

SC

What a great sentiment, Matt ☐

Sandi Cianci - August 26, 2023 at 09:56 PM

MC

Thanks Sandi❤️

Matthew Chavez - August 29, 2023 at 12:51 AM

JU

“ *Father Richard was such a blessing to have in our community. I remember being so upset when we lost him from St Pat's in Kankakee so he could go to Maternity BVM. He was wonderful to our kids When they were students. And as they became adults. He will be a treasure in heaven. May he rest in peace. ❤️*



Julie Uribe - August 25, 2023 at 03:13 PM

ML

“ *My Sympathy and prayers for Father and the family. Sister M. Alberta, OP. Sacred Heart Griffin High School*

Mary Alberta Lawless - August 25, 2023 at 02:13 PM

DK

“ *My deepest sympathies to the two sisters of this wonderful person. He was a credit to his family and the good lord. I told him one time that he was the most representative priest of the good lord during the consecration when he would say, "When you do this remember me" He will be lovingly remembered by all who knew him. May he rest in peace.*

Dewey Kilbride - August 25, 2023 at 09:22 AM

SG

“ Our daughter’s wedding was the last wedding Father Richard presided over at Maternity BVM Church. He was a very caring man, a Great leader and counselor and a wonderful priest, pastor and friend.

So many memories of time spent together with him ~ Rest Peacefully Faithful Servant Father Richard †



Steve and MaryEllen Gramera - August 24, 2023 at 10:46 PM

SA

“ Thank you for all the fun at early Madcaps and teaching my girls at St Pats.

susan Mulvihill Adame - August 24, 2023 at 02:30 PM

KM

“ *Dr. Joe, Kathy and Jonathan Meisenbach*
Our family has many happy memories of Father Richard. A very fond memory was while we were traveling together in Italy. We took a trip to Castel Gandolfo, a town, where Popes used to go to in the summer. We had tickets to go to Mass with Pope John Paul II. Also visiting priests were invited to participate in the Mass with the Pope. Father did not think he should join the other visiting priests, but eventually we persuaded him to do so. In the end a nice experience.

He was a very talented designer of flower gardens and he loved to decorate especially beautiful Crèche scenes.

Greatly appreciated his saying the Mass or presiding at several of our relative's burials.

Our heart felt sympathy to his two sisters and their families. We will always be grateful for the chance meeting of their brother —Father Richard J. Pighini— a Victorian priest and our friend.

Kathy Meisenbach - August 24, 2023 at 10:25 AM

SP

“ *I worked with Richard at Sacred Heart Griffin. He was an awesome teacher and I considered him a great friend. He was present at my father's deathbed and provided much solace to our family. Rest in peace friend. Sr. Jean Patrice, O.P.*

Sister Jean Patrice - August 23, 2023 at 08:06 PM

JH

“ *I went to Maternity BVM with my older brother and both him and I had been alter servers. Father Pighini was such a sweet man who really shared real stories that made you want to get up every day and go to church. I'm glad to have had him in my life and thankful for the impact he had on me.*

Jacquelyn Henrichsen - August 23, 2023 at 05:58 PM

JC

“ Jackie and Katie Chigaros purchased the Garden Accent Stone - "Wherever a Beautiful Soul..." for the family of Fr. Richard J Pighini C.S.V..



Jackie and Katie Chigaros - August 23, 2023 at 02:49 PM

JC

“ Jackie and Katie Chigaros planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Fr. Richard J Pighini C.S.V..

Jackie and Katie Chigaros - August 23, 2023 at 02:49 PM

AS

“ I met Richard at the University of Illinois. He has been my friend & mentor for many years. He was always upbeat & very humble. He was creative artistically, early on with his paintings, then his gardens, & later in church liturgy. I will never forget him, he touched my life. My deepest sympathies to his family. Annie Sriver

Anna Marie Sriver - August 23, 2023 at 10:49 AM

MB

“ Fr Pighini won an award from the garden walk of Kankakee for the most beautiful garden ever seen at a church. Which he shared with the entire parish and neighborhood of Bourbonnais

maryjo Boucher - August 23, 2023 at 10:34 AM

CM

“ *Wonderful priest. May he rest in peace.*

Cathie Miedema



cathie miedema - August 23, 2023 at 12:26 AM

JM

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Jon Meisenbach - August 22, 2023 at 09:45 PM

MC

That's a great picture of Father Pighini in front of St. Pat's in Kankakee.

Matthew Chavez - August 26, 2023 at 12:07 AM

JM

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Jon Meisenbach - August 22, 2023 at 09:28 PM

MF

“ *Father Pighini was my 7th/8th grade teacher at St. Pat’s. He was a Brother when I was in high school and later our Pastor for many years. He was a dear lifetime friend who will be always missed. He was a wonderful Pastor and gave many inspirational sermons to us parishioners. Our deepest sympathies to his family. Rest in Peace Father Pighini.* 🙏
🙏



Mr. & Mrs. Louis Fahey - August 22, 2023 at 09:01 PM

CS

“ *He was a wonderful big brother and son. I was always proud of him and honored to be his sister, even when we would argue as siblings often do. He will always be in my heart. Claudette Pighini Schmied*

claudette Pighini Schmied - August 22, 2023 at 08:34 PM

NC

“ *Fr. Pighini was an amazing soul. He loved to share the beauty of life itself to everyone he encountered ; be it his ministry, his gardens, or his friendship. His smile was contagious! Blessings to him on his heavenly journey.*



Nansi Chandler-Norum - August 22, 2023 at 07:53 PM

DB

“ I was blessed to have Richard Pighini as my 6th and 7th grade English teacher at St. Pat's Grade School in 1969 and 1970. He awakened in me a love of words, language, drama and beauty that has stayed with me my entire life. He gave me the confidence that beautiful words lived in me, and I had the pleasure of handing him my first book of prose and poetry in 2022. We both cried. Thank you, Father Pighini, for the immense color and beauty you brought to this world in your own enigmatic and wonderful way. You will dearly missed but forever cherished in our hearts!

Denise Bissonnette - August 22, 2023 at 07:23 PM

DB

I meant 2002, not 2022! Sorry!

Denise Bissonnette - August 22, 2023 at 07:24 PM

MS

“ 8/22 My heartfelt sympathy to Father Rich's family members. It was a privilege to have known him, shared laughter with him, and been his parishioner. He was a wonderful priest and a caring pastor. He left everything and everyone better for him having touched their lives. He was a good steward. Rest in peace, Father Rich. You were a good and faithful servant. We will miss you. God hold you in the hollow of His hand. - Merrill Ann Schierholz Seal

Merrill Ann Schierholz Seal - August 22, 2023 at 04:01 PM