



Rev. Thomas G. Langenfeld CSV

August 13, 1932 - October 1, 2011

Rev. Thomas G. Langenfeld, CSV, passed away October 1, from complications sustained after a fall. He was 79. He was the first American elected as Superior General of the Clerics of St. Viator, leading the international Congregation for 12 years. Fr. Langenfeld was born on August 13, 1932, one of 11 children born to Clifford and Bessie (Newman) Langenfeld. He attended Cathedral Boys High School in Springfield, IL where his Viatorian teachers made a profound impression on him. Fr. Langenfeld eventually joined the Clerics of St. Viator, Province of Chicago, professing his first vows on August 15, 1951. He was ordained a priest on May 28, 1960 in Joliet, IL. Fr. Langenfeld began his ministry as an educator first teaching at Spalding Institute in Peoria, IL, and then at the Viatorian Seminary. He served as assistant principal at Saint Viator High School in Arlington Heights, IL and later as principal of Bishop McNamara High School in Kankakee, IL. During the 1972 Viatorian General Chapter held in Rome, Fr. Langenfeld was elected Superior General of the international Congregation of the Clerics of St. Viator. He was the first American to serve as leader of the Congregation, which at that time consisted of 1,453 brothers and priests. He served two consecutive six-year terms ending in 1984. When he returned to the U.S., Fr. Langenfeld directed the Viatorian formation program in Chicago, IL before working in parish ministry serving as pastor at Immaculate Conception Church, and then as pastor at St. Patrick Church, both in Kankakee, IL.

Fr. Langenfeld was named pastor at St. Viator Church in Las Vegas, NV from

1994 to 1999. He then continued to serve the Las Vegas Diocese as director of clergy formation and in part time ministry at Guardian Angel Cathedral. When he retired in 2002, Fr. Langenfeld remained in the Las Vegas area celebrating weekend Masses at Guardian Angel Cathedral. He is survived by eight brothers and sisters: Richard, of Dixon, IL; Gary of St. Louis, MO; Mark of Normal, IL; Michael of Springfield, IL; Clifford of Garden Grove, CA; Catherine Van Den Bossche of Springfield, IL; Rose Marie Weymouth of Island Lake, IL; and Theresa Ulrich of Zanesville, OH. Visitation will take place from 4:30-7 p.m. on Friday, October 7 at St. Patrick Church, 428 S. Indiana Ave., Kankakee, IL. A Mass of Christian burial will be at 10 a.m. at the church on Saturday, October 8. Interment will be at Queen of Heaven Cemetery in Hillside, IL.

Cemetery Details

Queen of Heaven

1400 S. Wolf Rd.
Hillside, IL

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT 7. 4:30 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

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

Wake Service

OCT 7. 7:00 PM (CT)

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

Funeral Mass

OCT 8. 10:00 AM (CT)

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

Tribute Wall

FC

“ Dear members of Tom's family,

I extend my sincere sympathy to all of you on the loss of Tom. I'm sorry I was not at the funeral services here in Kankakee; I was on a long-planned vacation. I was a classmate of Tom's at Cathedral Boys High School. We were also in the band together. We then joined the Viatorians (Five of our class joined that year) , made our novitiate year on Sheridan Rd. in Chicago and spent four years at Loyola University. Then Tom got ahead of me and eventually taught me how to say Mass in the seminary in Washington, D.C. I also went to him for spiritual direction at one time. In the fall of 1988 he became Pastor of St. Patrick Parish in Kankakee, and I was the associate pastor until I was transferred the next summer.

I too suffer this loss of a friend, a classmate and a fellow Viatorian. I said a private Mass for Tom on Oct. 10.

Once again, my sympathy to all of you.

Fr. Don Wehnert, CSV

Fr. Don Wehnert, CSV - October 16, 2011 at 03:25 PM

PS

“ I have many memories of my Uncle Tom. My mom used to say he said the fastest family mass in history! Most of all I remember his sense of humor, his grace, his love, his smile. He showed me around Rome when I was 14 and took me to place out of the ordinary, I saw things to this day I remember that were totally cool. I got breaks in Sacred Heart that I am sure I would not have gotten had i not been Uncle toms niece. I still hear Sister Mary Blanche asking my how dear little Tommie is doing (tell her hi by the way). I hope you rest in peace, be sure to tell my mother I miss and love her every day.

Pat Langenfeld Shriner

Pat Langenfeld Shriner - October 08, 2011 at 05:03 PM

RC

“ May the angels open the Heavenly Gates...Fr Tom is coming home.
~+~

Rose Connolly - October 08, 2011 at 07:45 AM

RL

“ Remembering Tom as a classmate both in Cathedral Grade School And Cathedral Boys High School in Springfield. He will be missed greatly.

Dick Leiweke

Richard Leiweke - October 06, 2011 at 10:44 PM

BD

“ I am a member of St. Patrick's parish and I remember Fr. Tom as being very nice and always remembering the family. He will be missed greatly.

Betty Denault

Betty Denault - October 06, 2011 at 02:33 PM

LF

“ Father Tom was an amazing priest and dear friend. He was a wonderful homilist and it was always a special treat when he was a guest pastor at St. Patrick's during his frequent visits to Kankakee. We spent many evenings dining with Tom and met him for lunch on numerous occasions. When ever we had friends over and invited him to join us he was honored to be invited and when he helped with an annual dinner that we and friends donated to McNamara's auction he was the official summaliar. Tom gave me an appreciation for fine wine, art, time spent with friends and of course my relationship with our Lord. I am grateful to have spoken to him on his anniversary as a priest at which time he said he felt great and was enjoying his neighbor's little dog. He will be missed by many .
Linda and Rich Faber

Linda Faber - October 04, 2011 at 06:38 PM

RM

“ The amazing things that Father Tom did! He was a friend, counselor, pastor, and everything else a priest should be. When we bid him farewell from St. Patricks, it was standing room only and the Mass was one of the most beautiful tributes to a person that I have ever witnessed. Father, I am so grateful to have spoken to you on your birthday. You sounded so good, and you were preparing to celebrate with dinners and lunches with friends. Rest in peace, Father. You were the best.

Rick Mackin - October 04, 2011 at 04:10 PM

BR

*Father Tom was the greatest brother and friend to my friend Mike. Mike always had good times with his brother, Father Tom, in Springfield, Las Vegas, or wherever their trips would take them. He will sadly be missed. "Angels will lift you up in their hands and keep you from harm."
Psalms 91:12*

Barbara Rebbe

Barbara Rebbe - October 07, 2011 at 08:18 PM