



Fr. RICHARD JOSEPH O'DONNELL

1935 – 2021

Fr. Richard Joseph O'Donnell was born on September 19, 1935 in Brooklyn, New York to his father Erwin and his mother Grace Kiely O'Donnell. He was the third of four children.

After attending Good Shepherd's grade school for eight years, he attended Brooklyn Prep High School, which was a Jesuit high school. It was in his junior year that he realized he needed to start thinking about his future. This is when he began to consider the priesthood.

After graduation from high school, he went into a missionary seminary for six years after which he entered the Camillians. Prior to entering the missionary seminary, he had looked into the Camillians but decided not to pursue it at that time.

He began his pre-novitiate followed by a canonical novitiate in Durward's Glen near Baraboo, Wisconsin from September 1959 to September 1960.

After the novitiate, he entered St. Francis Seminary in Milwaukee, Wisconsin for a year of theology and then three years at St. Columban's Major Seminary in Milton, Massachusetts in 1963. On December 19, 1964, Fr. Richard O'Donnell was ordained to the priesthood in Milton, Massachusetts.

He began work as a vocation director and formation director in Whitinsville, Massachusetts. He also became involved in Clinical Pastoral Education and obtained his master's degree in counseling and psychology at Andover Newton Theological Seminary in Andover, Massachusetts in 1969.

In 1971 he moved to Wauwatosa, Wisconsin having many roles which included Superior of the Community, CPE Supervisor and Director of Pastoral Care.

In 1986, he was elected Provincial of the North American Province until 1995 when he was elected Vicar General of the Order of St. Camillus stationed in Rome, Italy until 2001. During the 1980s through the 1990s, he traveled to various destinations around the world visiting our Camillian Community Provinces and Delegations.

He returned to the USA in 2001 taking up the role of Provincial of the North American Province.

He sought the assistance of Camillian religious in other countries because of the dwindling number of religious priests and brothers in the US, which led to the help coming from the Brazilian Camillians. In April, 2011 the North American Province merged with the Brazilian Province and changed its name to the USA Camillian Delegation.

In 2013 Fr. Richard retired but still remained active in ministry by visiting and praying with the sick and saying masses. It was in September, 2020 where Fr. Richard's health began to decline. He was placed in the Hospice care of St. Camillus, but remained in his home, the Camillian Community House, where his confreres took care of him. His last days were of comfort to him living in the environment he knew and being surrounded by those he loved, his community.

As summarized by Fr. Frank Monks: "I would describe Fr. Richard as being a genuine, honest and sincere man; one who remained committed to the religious life."

His father, mother, two brothers and sister precede him in death. He is survived by his loving nephews and nieces. He will be dearly missed by all his Camillian confreres.

A funeral mass will be held on Saturday, May 22, 2021. Visitation from 9:00am to 10:00am, Mass at 10:00am. He will be buried that afternoon in the Camillian cemetery at *Our Lady of the Pines* in Baraboo, Wisconsin.

Grant eternal rest unto him O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon his soul. May he rest in peace!