



Diocese
of
Cleveland

Cathedral Square

OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR

C-239/2008

27 June 2008

Reverend and Dear Father,

*The Reverend John M. Richards
Chaplain, Lake Hospital Systems
In Residence, Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Wickliffe*

died today, 27 June, after receiving the prayerful support and consolation of the Sacraments.

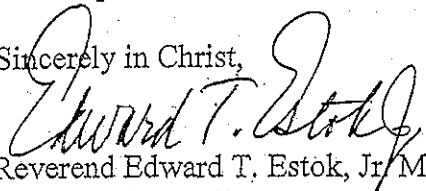
John Michael Richards, the son of William D. and the late Mary Helen (nee Endres) Richards, was born on 21 December 1954, in Lakewood, Ohio. He was educated at Saint Felicitas Elementary School, Euclid, Richmond Heights High School, Borromeo High School, Saint Louis University, Holy Family Seminary in Overland, Missouri and Saint Mary Seminary, Cleveland. On 12 January 1985, Bishop Anthony M. Pilla ordained him to the priesthood in the Cathedral of Saint John the Evangelist for the service of the Diocese of Cleveland.

His first assignment was as associate pastor of Saint Clare Parish, Lyndhurst. On 1 December 1988, Father Richards was transferred to Saint Mary Parish, Elyria where he served as associate pastor. His next assignment commenced on 23 June 1992, when he became associate pastor at Corpus Christi Parish, Cleveland. He was transferred on 20 June 1995, to Saint William Parish where he served as associate pastor. On 4 August 1997, Father Richards was appointed chaplain of Lake East and Lake West Hospitals with residence at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Wickliffe. He was serving in that capacity at the time of his death.

On Monday, 30 June, the wake will begin with the reception of the body and the singing of Vespers at 3:00 p.m. in Our Lady of Mount Carmel parish church, 1730 Mount Carmel Drive, Wickliffe. The visitation will continue until 8:00 p.m. The Funeral Mass will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. in Our Lady of Mount Carmel church on Tuesday, 1 July. The principal celebrant will be Most Reverend Anthony M. Pilla, Bishop Emeritus. The Reverend Thomas McGovern, Pastor Emeritus of Saint Matthew Parish, Akron, will be the homilist. Burial will take place at All Souls Cemetery, Chardon.

In accord with the provisions of the Marian Pact, please try to attend and concelebrate the Funeral Liturgy, offer Mass for him as you are able, and cause him to be remembered and prayed for in the appropriate public prayers of the Church. May Father John Richards and all our brother priests, deacons and bishops who have died, live forever in the joy of the Resurrection.

Sincerely in Christ,


Reverend Edward T. Estok, Jr., MA, M.Div.
Assistant Chancellor