



Diocese
of
Cleveland

Cathedral Square

C-67/2008
7 February 2008

OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR

Reverend and Dear Father,

The Reverend Canon Joseph F. Ciolek
Chaplain Emeritus, Holy Family Cancer Home, Parma

died on Thursday 7 February, at the Holy Family Cancer Home, after having received the prayerful support and consolation of the Sacraments.

Joseph Francis Ciolek, the son of the late Theodore and Wladyslawa (nee Karwowski) Ciolek, was born on 18 March 1922, in Cleveland, Ohio. He was educated at the former Saint Josaphat Elementary School, Cleveland, Cathedral Latin High School, John Carroll University and Saint Mary Seminary. On 31 May 1947, Bishop Edward F. Hoban ordained him to the priesthood in the Chapel of the Cathedral of Saint John the Evangelist, for the service of the Diocese of Cleveland.

His first assignment was as assistant at Saint Michael Parish, Independence. On 1 March 1949, Father Ciolek was transferred to Lorain, Ohio where he served at Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish until 15 May 1951, when he was appointed to Saint Casimir Parish, Cleveland. On 13 December 1951, he was transferred to Transfiguration Parish, Cleveland, where he served until 16 March 1956. On that date, Father Ciolek became assistant at Saint Adalbert Parish, Berea where he served until 4 September 1957, when he was assigned to Saints Peter and Paul Parish, Garfield Heights. On 9 February 1960, Father Ciolek was appointed chaplain at Marymount Hospital. Father Ciolek served in that capacity until 7 June 1971 when he was appointed chaplain of the Sisters of Saint Joseph of the Third Order of Saint Francis, Garfield Heights. On 8 November 1971, Father Ciolek was named chaplain of the Holy Family Cancer Home. Father Ciolek received an additional responsibility when he was elected President of the National Association of Catholic Chaplains in September of 1974. On 1 December 1974, Bishop Hickey gave him the additional appointment of Delegate for Health Affairs. Father Ciolek held that office until 1 September 1983. On 1 October 2003, Father Ciolek retired as chaplain of the Holy Family Cancer Home and received the title of Chaplain Emeritus.

Besides his priestly work, Father Ciolek dedicated himself to many Polish and Polish-American activities. From 1989 through 1992, he served as chaplain of the Polish-American Congress, Ohio Division. On 28 October 2000, in recognition of the assistance he had given them, the Bishop of the Diocese of Lomza asked the Vatican to honor Father Ciolek with the honorary title of Canon of the Cathedral Chapter of the Diocese of Lomza.

On Monday, 11 February, the wake will begin at Saint Anthony of Padua, Parma, 6750 State Road, with the reception of the body and the singing of Vespers at 3 p.m. The wake will continue until 8 p.m. The Mass of Christian Burial will take place on Tuesday, 12 February, at 11:00 a.m. in Saint Anthony of Padua Church, Parma. Bishop A. James Quinn will be the principal celebrant, and Father Theodore Marszal, will be the homilist. Burial will take place in Calvary Cemetery, Cleveland.

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 Joseph Ciolek and all our brother priests, deacons, and bishops who have died, live forever in the joy of the Resurrection.

Sincerely in Christ,

Sister Therese Guerin Sullivan, S.P., J.C.L.

Chancellor