



Diocese
of
Cleveland

Cathedral Square

Reverend and Dear Father,

AC-5/2009
6 March 2009

OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR

The Reverend Robert A. Bonnell
Pastor Emeritus, Sacred Heart Parish, Oberlin

died on Thursday, 5 March, at Lutheran Hospital, Cleveland, after receiving the prayerful support and consolation of the Sacraments.

Robert Anthony Bonnell, the son of the late Charles and Mary (nee Di Rienzo) Bonnell was born in Cleveland on 30 July 1924. He was educated at Superior Public School, Saint Gregory the Great Elementary School, Charles F. Brush High School, Saint Mary College, Saint Mary, Kentucky, and Saint Mary Seminary, Cleveland. On 2 April 1949, Bishop Edward F. Hoban ordained him to the priesthood for the service of the Diocese of Cleveland.

Father Bonnell's first assignment was as an assistant at Immaculate Conception Parish, Cleveland from 19 April 1949, to 19 March 1953, when he was transferred to Saint Augustine Parish in Barberton where he served until 13 June 1957 when he was assigned to St. Louis Parish, Cleveland Heights. On 28 November 1958, he was transferred to the Conversion of Saint Paul Parish, Cleveland where he ministered until 13 June 1963. On that date, Father Bonnell, who had received a Doctoral Degree in History from Case Western Reserve University, was named associate professor of history at Saint John College, Cleveland with his residence at Saint Aloysius Parish, Cleveland. He also taught at Notre Dame College. On 9 June 1966, he was given the additional responsibility of the chaplaincy at the Carmelite Convent in Cleveland Heights. During this time, Father Bonnell also involved himself in interfaith activities and assisted in the development of the Heights Community Congress.

On 13 September 1973, he finished his teaching assignment at Saint John College, Cleveland, and became pastor of Saint Margaret Mary Parish in South Euclid. On 24 June 1976, Father Bonnell was transferred to the pastorate of Sacred Heart Parish in Oberlin. On 1 July 1994, he retired and received the title of Pastor Emeritus. After he retired, Father Bonnell served on the Board of "Rainbows", a ministry for children of divorce and provided pastoral assistance at various Lorain parishes.

The wake will begin on Tuesday, 10 March, at Sacred Heart Church, 410 West Lorain Street, Oberlin, with the Reception of the Body and Vespers at 3:00 p.m. The wake will continue until 8:00 p.m. The Funeral Mass will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, 11 March, in Sacred Heart Church. Bishop Richard G. Lennon will be the principal celebrant and Father William Padavick will serve as 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 Robert Bonnell and all our brother priests, deacons and bishops who have died, live forever in the joy of the Resurrection.

Sincerely in Christ,

The Reverend Edward T. Estok, Jr., M.A., M.Div.
Assistant Chancellor