



Father Peter J Whalen

July 24, 1939 - December 13, 2020

Pastoral Notice

A Celebration of Life Service will most likely be held next summer

Open Obedient Responsive Committed

Dear Colleagues,

We ask your prayers for the repose of the soul of The Rev. Peter Whalen, long-time priest of the Diocese of Tennessee, who died in the early morning hours of December 13, in Nashville. Please also keep Barbara, Peter's wife, and their children Chris and Christi, in your prayers.

During his ministry in the Diocese of Tennessee, Father Peter touched many lives in numerous ways, including as Rector of St. Philip's in Donelson, chair of the Commission on Ministry, and Priest-in-charge at Church of the Redeemer, Shelbyville, and most recently at St. Mary Magdalene, in Fayetteville.

Of his ministry in retirement--but more broadly about ministry as a whole, Peter said this when he concluded his ministry at Church of the Redeemer:

"I am always willing to help out if called upon, not only locally but anywhere in the diocese. I do not mind supplying (helping in parishes where the pastor is on vacation, sabbatical, or sick) where there is a need on a temporary basis. God has given me a gift and I'm more than willing to share that as long as there is a need that I can fulfill" (<https://bit.ly/2IKPIUZ>)

Bishop Bauerschmidt offered the following reflection "Peter Whalen was a wonderful priest and pastor to so many of us in the Diocese of Tennessee. I am grateful to God for his long and fruitful ministry, and personally grateful to him for his leadership in our Diocese."

Further information will be shared when it is available.

May his soul, and the souls of all the departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace (B
CP 502).

In Christ,

Jody Howard

Canon to the Ordinary

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Father Peter would be honored with memorials to: Caregiver Relief Program of Bedford County, P.O. Box 584, Shelbyville, Tennessee 37162, or to your local food bank.

Feldhaus Memorial Chapel is assisting the family with the arrangements.

Comments



“ We remember Father Peter Whalen very fondly! Father Pete was very involved with not only his parishioners but also the community of Mission, TX. We remember how he would spend time working alongside us building floats for the annual Texas Citrus Fiesta. He served as president of the Fiesta several times and would be seen driving his golf cart up and down the parade route helping get things in order.

Father Pete was very close to the young people living in our parish. He could be seen walking among them, talking and joking with them when they were taking a break from their lessons. He visited them in their classrooms and spent time answering questions.

He always planned fun activities for his altar servers, especially taking them on trips to Garner State Park in Uvalde, TX. A group of parents would go along to do the cooking but the young people and Father Pete pitched in to help with cleanup. One time, after he was assigned to a parish in Harlingen, TX, he asked if he could bring his altar servers over and drive up with us to Garner. We enjoyed having them join us and when it came time to have a Mass, he immediately obliged. This simple Mass said under the shade of a large oak tree was very meaningful to all present and would not have taken place had God not put Father Pete there at that time.

We have missed Father Pete for a long time and we know that wherever he was assigned over the years after he left the Valley, he brought laughter and abundant blessings to those fortunate enough to have been part of his ministry.

Jerry and Julie Saenz

julie saenz - January 19 at 03:11 PM



“ Father Pete was a blessing. We loved him and have missed him. He is with the angels. Blessings to his family. Josie Abbenante, Albuquerque (Our family knew him when he was in Mission, Texas)



Josie Abbenante - December 20, 2020 at 03:34 PM



“ Peter was one of the finest priests we have ever known, and he was a good and steady friend for 30 years. He loved his family and he loved the church. He was a faithful friend with a terrific sense of humor. We are diminished by his passing, but the Communion of the Saints is immeasurably enriched. Judy and Robert Dedmon, Manchester, Tennessee.

Robert Dedmon - December 19, 2020 at 07:54 PM



“ Thoughts & Prayers was purchased for the family of Father Peter J Whalen.



December 15, 2020 at 07:02 PM