



Fr. Ronan Callahan

September 9, 2015

Father Ronan Callahan, a Passionist priest, seminary professor, and overseas missionary, died at Saint Mary Home, West Hartford, Connecticut on Wednesday, September 9th, 2015. He was 92. Born Jerome F. Callahan in 1923, the second son the late Walter S. Callahan and the late Rose (Tierney) Callahan and named for his grandfather. Brother of Robert Callahan of Farmingdale, New York and the late Walter Callahan. Father Ronan grew up in the Flatlands section of Brooklyn. He attended Saint Augustine High School in Brooklyn, NY and graduated from Farmingdale High School in Farmingdale, NY in 1941. He studied at Manhattan College in the Bronx, NY and graduated from Cathedral College of Immaculate Conception Preparatory Seminary, Brooklyn, NY in 1944. He then entered the Passionist Community, a Roman Catholic community of brothers and priests dedicated to preaching the Passion of the Christ, contemplative prayer, the preaching of parish missions and retreats, and overseas missionary work. After completing novitiate at Saint Paul of the Cross Monastery, Pittsburgh, PA in 1945, Father Ronan studied theology at Saint Michael Monastery, Union City, NJ. He received an MA in Theology and was ordained a priest in 1951. He then studied philosophy at the Angelicum in Rome, Italy from 1952-1954, the University of Ottawa, Ottawa, Canada, Laval University, Quebec, Canada, and Georgetown University, Washington, DC. He received a Carnegie Fellowship at the University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame Indiana in 1968. Father Callahan taught philosophy at the Passionist Monastic Seminary, Jamaica, New York

from 1954-1970. He also taught at Saint Joseph College, West Hartford, CT from 1964-1968 and held membership in the American Catholic Philosophical Association. In 1970 he embarked on a missionary career with the Passionists in the southern Philippines. He taught philosophy at Notre dame of Marbel University in Cotabato, served as consultor to the Bishop, was chancellor of the Diocese of Marbel from 1975-1990, and ministered as a prison and hospital chaplain. He was president of the Philosophy Association of the Visayas and Mindanao in the southern Philippines and received numerous awards for public service. Returning to the United States, Father Ronan taught at Holy Apostles Seminary, Cromwell, CT from 1993 until his death. He also served in local leadership at Holy Family Monastery, West Hartford, CT during that time period. The Passionists are grateful for the care Fr. Ronan received through the Franciscan Sisters of the Eucharist with home care, and the Sisters of Mercy at St. Mary Home. The Funeral will be held at Holy Family Monastery Chapel, West Hartford, CT. The wake will be at 9AM on Monday, September 14th with the Mass of Christian Burial to be celebrated at 11AM, also at Holy Family Chapel. Burial will be immediately afterward at Holy Family Cemetery on the Monastery grounds. Donations may be made to the Passionist Retirement Fund, Holy Family Monastery, 303 Tunxis Road, W. Hartford, CT 06107.

Cemetery Details

Holy Family Cemetery

303 Tunxis Rd.
West Hartford, CT

Previous Events

Calling Hours

SEP 14. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Holy Family Monastery
303 Tunxis Ave.
West Hartford, CT

Mass of Christian Burial

SEP 14. 11:00 AM (ET)

Holy Family Monastery
303 Tunxis Ave.
West Hartford, CT

Tribute Wall

PM

“*Father Ronan was a part of my life from when I was very small. He was a friend of my parents and family. He presided over both my parents wedding mass and my own. When father Ronan was a missionary priest in the Phillippines, he would come home every 4 years. I can remember as a small child waiting for him on the stairs of the metropolitan museum of art in NYC. So excited for his return! Over my lifetime I had many wonderful visits with Father Ronan. Upon his return to the Monastery in West Hartford, My Father would always bring him a long, heavy winter coat. He was always cold, his blood thin from living in tropical weather. We had many lively religious discussions over the years. When I married someone who was not a catholic, He was warm and welcoming to my husband Jay. I was saddened by his passing, but glad for his return to his heavenly Father.*

Paulette Riopel-McDaniel

Paulette McDaniel - April 26, 2025 at 06:04 AM

MO

“ Well, Father Ronan Callahan should be beatified.
In 1998, after transferring from SCSU, I decided to study and dedicate my life to learning Theology, at Holy Apostle's College and Seminary.
Well, it just so blessedly happened, was St. Father Callahan became my first teacher.
Seeing that me, along with much older lay persons, and priests in their full attire, i felt like an odd-ball.
That Saintly Father Ronan urged me to not run home after class, and stay for lunch each class.
Soon, due to St. Callahan, i felt like i was at home, relaxed, happy, and inspired to soon take more classes, while working for the Ct. Institute for the Blind.
I only can thank Jesus, Mary , the Holy Spirit, EVERY DAY.
From 1998-2008, I only pray to be as Christ-Like as my dear St. Callahan
There is so much more about the miracle of having known so blessed a human being in him.

Mary O'Malley - October 21, 2020 at 02:53 PM

MS

“ Mary Starke lit a candle in memory of Fr. Ronan Callahan



Mary Starke - September 11, 2015 at 03:46 PM

MS

“*Father Ronan was my father’s brother. I have wonderful memories of my Uncle Ronan. He was a lively conversationalist, had a great wit and I was always impressed by his deep faith and love of the church. I remember fondly that during my childhood when visiting Farmingdale, NY, where my family resided, he’d offer early morning mass at St. Killian’s parish which I’d attend with my family. He had a ton of energy and sometimes after mass he’d load my siblings and me into his car and drive over to Jones Beach, one of his favorite spots. It was always a thrill for us. He was a strong swimmer and could ride in the wildest of waves. When I was about nine years, old Uncle Ronan encouraged my sister and me to learn to ride the waves as well. So, my sister and I swam, led by Uncle Ronan into the ocean. Under the breakers we swam, out beyond the waves and waited for the big one. I was filled with excitement and fear as we waited. As a large wave approached we began to swim towards shore and before I knew it the wave lifted us up, I mimicked Uncle Ronan’s human surfboard stance, and together we all rode the wave into shore. Elation! Nice memory to have. I know Father Ronan, Uncle Ronan, will be missed by many.*

Mary Starke - September 11, 2015 at 03:46 PM

MO

What a Saint.

Mary O'Malley - October 21, 2020 at 02:59 PM