

Rev. John J. Stack, S.T.D.

March 6, 1928 - February 3, 2011

Reverend John J. Stack, S.T.D. age 82 retired , of West Hartford, died on Thursday February 3rd at St. Mary Home West Hartford. Father Stack was born March 6, 1928 in Waterbury, the son of the late Nicholas and Margaret McMahon Stack. He was a graduate of Crosby High School, Waterbury and had attended St. Thomas Seminary, Bloomfield . He had completed his studies at St. Bernard's Seminary, Rochester, NY, and was ordained to the priesthood on May 14, 1953 by the late Archbishop Henry J. O'Brien. Fr. Stacks' first assignment was with St. Mary Church, Newington, where he had served as assistant pastor for two years, later being assigned to Mount St. Joseph Academy in West Hartford where he served as an instructor in Religion. In 1955, Fr. Stack was assigned to graduate studies at St. Thomas University Angelicum in Rome, Italy. Upon his return, Fr. Stack was appointed as chaplain and instructor in Religious Studies at St. Joseph College, West Hartford. He would remain a member of its' faculty until his retirement in 2002, and during his long tenure there served as: Professor, Chair of the Department of Religious Studies, Academic Advisor, and Director of the Graduate Institute of Contemporary Christian Thought. Upon his retirement, Fr. Stack was nominated and named Professor Emeritus, and received a Doctor of Humane Letters from St. Joseph College. During the first session of the Second Vatican Council, Fr. Stack served as an advisor to Archbishop Henry J. O'Brien, and also served during the fourth session, where he was named a "peritus" of the Council. Fr. Stack also served as vice-chairman of

the Archdiocesan Commission for Ecumenical Affairs, and was a member of the editorial board of the Catholic Transcript. His pastoral service included 20 years as a weekend assistant at St. Timothy Parish, West Hartford, and weekend assistant at Sacred Heart Parish, Bloomfield. "I really enjoy weekend pastoral work" Fr. Stack once said. "I feel a part of parish life; it gives me contact with some wonderful people, and I love the opportunity to preach". Fr. Stack is survived by his brother, T. Francis Stack and his wife Carolyn of Suffield, his sister, Helen M. Donahue of Southington, his sister in law Ann M. Stack of Southington, 17 nieces and nephews, and many grandnieces and grandnephews. He was predeceased by his brother Nicholas S. Stack, his sister Marguerite M. Mastropietro, brother's in law Robert J. Mastropietro and Robert G. Donahue, and nephew Gregory M. Stack. A Mass of Christian Burial with Archbishop Henry J. Mansell as Principal Celebrant will be celebrated at 10:30am on Monday February 7th in the Church of Saint Timothy, 1116 North Main Street, West Hartford. Burial will be in Calvary Cemetery, Waterbury. Calling hours will take place at the Church of Saint Timothy on Sunday February 6th from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm. At Fr. Stacks' request, memorial contributions in lieu of flowers may be made to St. Joseph College 1678 Asylum Avenue , West Hartford, CT 06117

Tribute Wall



“ I was so saddened to learn of the passing of Father Stack. I took several classes with Father Stack at St.Joe's in the late 80's/early 90's.

He helped me to learn so much about my own beliefs and I will never forget him. In explaining his faith about an eternity with God, he would say that he could not believe that he wouldn't see his 2 year old nephew again.

God bless you Father Stack and may you rest in peace with the little guy you clearly loved so much.##imported-begin##Corinna Dougty##imported-end##

February 20, 2011 at 12:00 AM



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February 20, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *The road has risen up to meet Father Stack, and he now rests in the palm of God's hand. My condolences to Father's family on his passing.*

*Fr. Stack' classes and homilies are among the many happy memories of my years at Saint Joseph College. I recently found the book *Man Becoming* in my basement and put it aside to read at my leisure. It has been forty years since I read it as a freshman in Fr. Stack's class. Then there were Father's original characters - *Cunegunda* and *Chesley* - products of his wit and wisdom. Many thanks to Fr. John Stack for all that he has been to St. Joseph College.##imported-begin##Mary McMahon Flynn, SJC '75##imported-end##*

February 09, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *During the early 1960's, I had the privilege of being in Father Stack's theology classes at St. Joseph College. His enthusiasm and commitment to his faith was always evident. God keep Father Stack in His light and His love forever. My condolences to his family.##imported-begin##Mary Ann Privitera##imported-end##*

February 08, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *Hello Stack family - I am the daughter of Betty Stack Lauver of Cleveland. I visited the family and Fr. John many years ago while in college. I am heartbroken to hear of his passing. I know he meant the world to many just from having met him twice. I was looking him up today to report Uncle Jimmy Stack's passing on January 5th, as I always thought of the two of them as kindred spirits. They were both very funny and full of love for life. My thoughts and prayers are with the family.##imported-begin##Beth Lauver Christen##imported-end##*

February 08, 2011 at 12:00 AM



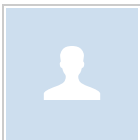
“ Our sympathy goes to the family of Father John Stack whose homilies were gifts, each and every one of them. Sincerely, Lois Mathieu and Bill Newell##imported-begin##Lois Mathieu & Bill Newell##imported-end##

February 07, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Fr. Stack was our friend and colleague at SJC and an important mentor for me. We are sorry to hear of his death and offer our condolences to his family. You and he are in our thoughts and prayers. We will always remember his sense of humor. Shalom.##imported-begin##Mil and Mary Ann Thompson##imported-end##

February 05, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Father Stack was my professor as I pursued a minor in religious studies. I greatly enjoyed his classes and learned so much from him. He had many interesting stories that enlightened my faith journey. Some stories shocked this young Catholic and made me think about new ideas like when he talked of a future black pregnant pope. After graduation I was very happy to get in touch with him to serve as the celebrant for my marriage. I was always hoping to run into him again someday, but I guess I will have to wait some time for that reunion now. Rest in peace Father Stack.##imported-begin##Deanna Poggie Sokola##imported-end##

February 05, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *Psalms 91:14-16 KJV*

14 Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him: I will set him on high, because he hath known my name.

15 He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honour him.

16 With long life will I satisfy him, and shew him my salvation.

##imported-begin##Rev. Valentine Vit##imported-end##

February 04, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *Rest in peace, my dearest friend John. My heart and thoughts are with you.##imported-begin##Marc van der Poel##imported-end##*

February 04, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *To Father Stack's Family:*

You probably don't know me because I'm one of the many parishioners who eagerly listened for Father Stack's homilies. The ones about the comics of the Peanuts were especially my favorites. When all of the other priests had sermons/homilies which would bore a youngster growing up, Father Stack always kept my interest. He was such a funny priest. I will miss him dearly and it has been a long time since I've heard his homilies, as my family and I listened when he would assist Father Leo Picher or Father Shaw with Sacred Heart School/Church and Our Lady of Assumption in Bloomfield. Rest in Peace, Father Stack.##imported-begin##Catherine F. Kriss##imported-end##

February 04, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *Father Stack taught the two religion courses I took as a student at St. Joe's in the late '70s, as well as served as our chaplain. He is a vivid memory for me of those four years - he made my religion come alive - and for that I am most grateful. Rest in peace Father.* *##imported-begin##Lauren Buckingham Lundebjerg##imported-end##*

February 04, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *I was a long time member of the Church of Saint Timothy. I always enjoyed Father Stack's homilies and often told him so. One Sunday after a particularly wonderful homily, I went up to him after mass and spoke to him about it. A few days later I received a copy of that homily in the mail from him. He was a special man and will be greatly missed.* *##imported-begin##Carol Krause##imported-end##*

February 04, 2011 at 12:00 AM