



Fr. Karl John Roesch

May 27, 1934 - March 7, 2017

The community of St. Mary's Abbey announces with sorrow the passing from this life of Father Karl John Roesch after a long illness, in the eighty-third year of his life, the sixty-third of his monastic profession, and the fifty-seventh of his priesthood. Father Karl was born in Newark, New Jersey, to John and Mary Roesch on twenty-seven May, 1934 and christened John Junior in the Church of the Blessed Sacrament. John attended the parish school and later, graduated from Saint Benedict's Prep in 1951. It was here that he encountered the Benedictine monks of St. Mary's Abbey. Father Karl entered St. Vincent College, interrupting his course of studies by the year of novitiate as a Benedictine monk at St. Benedict's Abbey in Atchison, Kansas, where he pronounced monastic vows in 1954. He returned to St. Vincent where he graduated in 1956. He then began the study of theology at St. Mary's, Delbarton. He was ordained to the priesthood in 1960. Father Karl quickly became an integral figure at Delbarton School, serving at various times as prefect of boarding students, director of transportation, advanced placement coordinator, and coaching freshman football and varsity baseball. He chaired the committee that planned the renovation of St. Joseph Gymnasium and the new Abbot Brian Clarke Gymnasium. Meanwhile, he taught fulltime, having earned a master's degree in mathematics at the Catholic University of America. He was, however, about to begin a second career. In 1987, after almost thirty years of service in education at Delbarton, Father Karl accepted the call to assume the pastorate of the Church of St. Elizabeth of Hungary in

Linden, New Jersey, then under the care of St. Mary's Abbey. Father Karl gave himself to the pastoral service of the people of Linden until 2000 when a new chapter in his life opened with an invitation to move south, to St. Mary Virgin Mother Parish in Hartsville, South Carolina. He embraced his new environment as pastor and accepted several posts in the Diocese of Charleston, which includes the entire state. Here he remained for sixteen more years until illness forced his retirement and return home.

Fr Karl is survived by his nieces and nephews. John Rubin (Jane) of Lake Bluff, IL, Neil Rubin (Chi) of Kuala Lumpur Malaysia, Kerry Rubin of Florham Park, NJ, Tara Rubin Roukey (Paul) of Abington, MA. He also is survived by grand-nephews and nieces: Michael, Matthew Lauren, Nicholas, Sean, Connor and Owen. A Memorial Mass will be held at 12 noon Saturday, March 25, 2017 at St. Mary Catholic Church, Bishop Robert Guglielmone, Celebrant. Memorials to the St. Mary's Abbey Infirmary fund in Fr. Karl's name would be appreciated. Rt. Rev Richard Cronin, O.S.B. and Community St. Mary's Abbey, 230 Mendham Rd., Morristown, NJ 07960.

Previous Events

Service

MAR 25. 12:00 PM (ET)

St. Mary the Virgin Mother Roman Catholic Church
363 North Fifth St.
Hartsville, So 29550

Visitation

MAR 25. 1:00 PM (ET)

St. Mary's Catholic Church Fellowship Hall
363 North Fifth Street
Hartsville, SC 29550

Tribute Wall

AJ

“ Thanks for teaching me all about the catholic faith! You helped me convert, preformed my confirmation and taught me so much! You will be missed by so many.

Annie Jones - November 30, 2018 at 08:51 AM

GO

“ GRADY O'NEAL lit a candle in memory of Fr. Karl John Roesch



GRADY O'NEAL - March 16, 2017 at 04:06 PM

AW

“ Father Karl was enormously helpful and supportive to me in my life, and I will always be grateful for that. He was a fine priest, and and an even better friend to me and to many. May God bless his memory.

Andy Williams - March 14, 2017 at 11:38 AM

KB

“ Karen Weikel Brembt lit a candle in memory of Fr. Karl John Roesch



Karen Weikel Brembt - March 14, 2017 at 11:20 AM

CF

“ Cheryl Lynn Ferrulli lit a candle in memory of Fr. Karl John Roesch



cheryl lynn ferrulli - March 13, 2017 at 10:40 AM

RH

“ Rick Harrold lit a candle in memory of Fr. Karl John Roesch



Rick Harrold - March 12, 2017 at 05:52 AM

CW

“ Cheryl Weikel lit a candle in memory of Fr. Karl John Roesch



Cheryl Weikel - March 11, 2017 at 09:00 PM

SH

“ Sally Horton lit a candle in memory of Fr. Karl John Roesch



Sally Horton - March 11, 2017 at 05:26 PM