

Pastor's Column

Rev. Michael Ratajczak
michaelr@stmoside.org
758-4100 x100

In Memoriam: Rev. Ken Kieffer, OFM

Our hearts are heavy in these days of February as we prepare the Vigil Service and the Funeral Mass for Fr. Ken.

The Vigil Service will be held on Thursday, February 15, at 7:00pm on our Upper Level. The Funeral Mass will also be celebrated on the Upper Level on Friday, February 16, at 11:00am with a reception following on the Plaza. (Please pray for good weather!)

Fr. Ken was an inspiration to all of us and was a model of what "retirement" should be like, not only for priests but for all people. His "free" time was willingly given in service of others. He lived his life in a spirit of joy and tranquility, and that spirit was experienced by those who knew him or even just happened to be in his presence.

Fr. Ken received greatly of God's joy and peace, because Fr. Ken gave greatly of himself.

He truly enjoyed his retirement because he was doing what he loved most—serving God by serving God's people. His retirement was deeply meaningful because he was about doing good and taking care of others. His retirement and later years were not focused on himself and in only meeting his own needs and wants.



His life reminds us, once again, that it is in giving that we receive, and that it is in our decision to become a servant of the Lord that we find real freedom, joy, and inner peace.

As we now continue our friendship with Fr. Ken in a different way, let us not pray for him, but rather, let us pray to him, and ask for his continued blessings upon our Parish Family.

Many people have been asking if they can assist in the Funeral preparations and reception. Memorial envelopes, in honor of Fr. Ken, are available. Your monetary donations will help to defray the costs of the reception, and the remainder will be directed to our Building Fund.

Eternal rest grant unto Fr. Ken, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace. Amen!

Fr. Mike