



Rev. Francis Xavier Reese, S.J.

June 8, 1927 - November 20, 2018

Rev. Francis X. Reese, SJ, was born in Philadelphia, PA on June 8, 1927. He graduated from St. Joseph's Prep and attended St. Joseph's College, where he earned a degree in Psychology before entering the Society of Jesus at the Novitiate of St. Isaac Jogues in Wernersville, Pa. in 1950.

Fr. Reese studied Philosophy at Spring Hill College in Mobile, AL and theology at Woodstock College, Md. He was ordained to the priesthood on June 19, 1960 and later earned an M.T.S. from Regis College in Toronto.

After spending his early ministerial years in secondary education at Georgetown Prep, Bishop's Latin (Pittsburgh), and St. Joseph's Prep, Fr. Reese headed to North Carolina in 1978 where he ministered for almost 40 years. His first assignment in the south was retreat work in Hot Springs, NC, followed by service at St. Andrew the Apostle in Mars Hill and St. Peter's in Charlotte. He returned to Hot Springs in 1989 where he spent ten years as Director of the House of Prayer. By the late 1990s, Fr. Reese was engaged in Latino ministry and the ministering of the Spiritual Exercises to various communities in North Carolina. St. Therese in Mooresville became his home in 2011, where he faithfully served the Latino community until his move to St. Claude la Colombiere Jesuit Community in Baltimore in 2017.

Fr. Reese spent his final year in Baltimore serving as a spiritual director before his death on November 20, 2018 at the age of 91.

Events

NOV **Visitation** 07:00PM - 08:30PM
28

Chapel of Columbiere Jesuit Community
5704 Roland Avenue, Baltimore, MD, US, 21210

NOV **Visitation** 09:30AM - 10:30AM
29

St. Alphonsus Rodriguez
10800 Old Court Road, Woodstock, MD, US, 21163

NOV **Funeral Mass** 10:30AM
29

St. Alphonsus Rodriguez
10800 Old Court Road, Woodstock, MD, US, 21163

Comments



“ Father Frank was a Holy Man. We first met him when he came to dinner at our home. We were going through a crisis of religion. We were unhappy Methodists and I made the following joke "I am in a great notion to call that Catholic priest and him tote his wares and see what he has to sell. We laughed a while and we looked at each other and said "Why not." When we called he thought we were a buddy he was having prank war with and when he realized very quickly we were not joking he got serious. We invited him to supper and information about the Romans Catholic Church. He first said we would not have to feed him and was told this" You will earn this meal because we have many questions. Growing up both us were from Baptist backgrounds and grew up hearing that Catholics do not pass go they just go straight hell when they die. We were expecting Bing Crosby and got Father Frank. After 2 hours of being quizzed we were still unsure but our youngest child who was about 2.5 years old (in the hating all strangers stage) walked into the living room carrying her favorite My Little Pony doll. She looked him over and climbed up his lap and snuggled in. He never broke stride and kept on answering our concerns. Our thoughts were okay kid if you like he must be a good person. We went to our first service on New years day 1990 and have never regreted it. I told Father Frank the last I saw him I told him besides my own father I respected him more than any man on the planet. He was a great man. We knew him for 28 and a half years and we have never met a more Godly man. He will be sorely missed.
Jeff and Barbara Ledford, Mars Hill, NC.

Jeffrey Ledford - November 30, 2018 at 05:38 PM



“ Fr. Frank was a faithful spiritual director to me for over a decade at Hot Springs. I am so grateful for him and Sr. Peg for those years. — Fr. Gary Miles Smith, Rector, Grace Episcopal Church, Keswick, Virginia.

G.Miles Smith - November 23, 2018 at 07:20 AM