



DIOCESE OF LITTLE ROCK

2500 North Tyler Street • P.O. Box 7565 • Little Rock, AR 72217

Obituary of Fr. Richard Davis

Rev. Richard Davis died on Wednesday, May 20, 2020, in his home at Saint Boniface Catholic Church in New Dixie, Arkansas. A native of Pocahontas, Arkansas, he was born on February 21, 1937. He attended Saint John's Home Missions Seminary in Little Rock, Arkansas, and was ordained to the Priesthood by the Most Reverend Albert L. Fletcher at the Cathedral of St. Andrew on May 18, 1963.

Fr. Davis's first assignment was as associate pastor of Holy Redeemer in El Dorado. In 1964, he became associate pastor of Saint Patrick in North Little Rock, chaplain of Saint Vincent Infirmary, and religion teacher at Mount Saint Mary's Academy. He served as associate pastor of Christ the King and Saint Leo in Hartford from 1970-1976. During his ministry in Fort Smith, he taught religion and served as a chaplain for Saint Anne Academy and the Mercy Convent. With the closing of Saint Anne Academy, Father Davis helped to found the TARE (Teen Aged Religious Education) Program, which for over two decades assisted young adults in the Arkansas River Valley to grow in their faith.

Fr. Davis received his first pastorate in 1976 when Bishop Andrew McDonald assigned him to Saint Elizabeth in Eureka Springs Arkansas. He then served as pastor of Saint James in Searcy and Saint Albert in Heber Springs (1979-1983); Saint Paul in Pocahontas (1983-1987); Saint John in Engelberg, Saint Joseph in Corning, and St. George in Knobel (1987-1989); and Saint Mary in Paragould (1989-1996). From 1996 until his death, Father Davis served as pastor of Saint Boniface in New Dixie, Saint Francis in Little Italy, and Saint Elizabeth in Adona (1996-2020). In addition to his parish ministry, Father Davis served the Diocese of Little Rock as Dean of the Northeastern Deanery and a variety of boards and councils.

Father Richard is predeceased by his parents and his sister Virginia Davis Cunningham (Heard) of Jacksonville, FL. He is survived by his sister, Carolyn Davis Johnson (Aden) of Jonesboro, AR; Niece, Leslie Cunningham Layton (Charles) of Jacksonville, FL; Nephews Chris Johnson, Jonesboro; Timothy Johnson (Robin Smith) of The Finch Community; Gregory Johnson (Sandra Hathcoat) of Jonesboro; Great Nieces and Nephews, Logan Marie Johnson of Walnut Ridge; Dalyn Johnson (Laura Basinger) of The Finch Community; Madison Claire Johnson of Jonesboro, Bayne Stone Johnson of Walnut Ridge; and William Timothy Johnson of The Finch Community.

The Rosary and Vigil Service will be held at 6 p.m., Tuesday, May 26 at Saint Joseph Catholic Church in Conway, Arkansas. The Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10 a.m., Wednesday, May 27 at Saint Joseph Catholic Church in Conway, Arkansas, with the Most Rev. Anthony B. Taylor (Bishop of Little Rock). Burial will follow immediately at Saint Boniface Catholic Church Cemetery in New Dixie, Arkansas.

"You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek." (Heb. 7:17)