



Reverend William John Reitz

Reverend William John Reitz, 88, of Lowell-Belding area entered eternal life on Monday, January 16, 2012. Rev. Reitz was born January 27, 1923 at home in Keene Township, Ionia County, MI, the son of Anthony and Edith Daller Reitz. He was preceded in death by his birth mother, Edith in 1927; his father, Anthony in 1960; Mabel Hausbach Reitz in 1984; and his sister, Virginia in 2003. Mabel Reitz was the mother who raised William and his siblings and taught them the principles of the Catholic faith. He is survived by his sister and brother-in-law, Margaret and Howard Scheid of Belding; and his brother, Father Joseph Anthony Reitz of Lowell-Belding; and several nieces and nephews and their families, and his spiritual family and care takers, the Trinitarians of Mary. Rev. Reitz attended Wilkinson School through eighth grade; St. Joseph Seminary, Grand Rapids, MI; Sacred Heart, Detroit, MI; and St. Mary Seminary, Baltimore, MD. He was ordained May 31, 1947, by Most Reverend Francis J. Haas at the Cathedral of Saint Andrew. His pastoral assignments included: St. John Vianney, Wyoming; Sacred Heart, Mt. Pleasant; St. Mary, Muskegon; St. Ann, Cadillac; SS Peter and Paul, Ionia; St. Joseph, Onkama; St. Raphael Mission, Copemish and St. Joseph Mission, Karlin; All Saints, Fremont; St. Mary Magdalen, Kentwood; St. Michael, Brunswick; Christ the King Mission, Hesperia; St. Mary, Carson City; and St. John the Baptist, Hubbardston. He was appointed Synodal Judge-Matrimonial Court on October 1, 1963. He was elected dean of the Montague Deanery on October 21, 1977. He was a member of the newly established Presbyteral Council of the Diocese of Grand Rapids, October 19, 1979. He was elected dean of Ionia Deanery (1985-1990). He retired to senior priest status on June 30, 2004. Mass of Christian burial will be at 11 a.m. Friday, January 20, 2012 at St. Joseph Catholic Church, Belding, MI, with Rev. Msgr. William H. Duncan as the principal celebrant. Interment will be in St. Mary Catholic Cemetery, Miriam. Visitation will be Thursday, January 19, 2012, 5 to 7 p.m. and vigil service and Rosary at 7 p.m. at Johnson-Feuerstein Funeral Home, 203 S. Pleasant St., Belding, MI. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Trinitarians of Mary to be given to the poor children in Mexico. May beloved Father William Reitz rest in eternal peace and enjoy the fullness of the glory of the Lord he so faithfully served. Let us continue to remember him in our Masses and prayers. May this good and faithful servant now enter into the joy of his Lord. To leave a message of condolence for the Reitz family please visit www.jffh.com.