



Reverend Edward Francis Boucher

Father Edward Francis Boucher, age 84, a senior priest of the Catholic Diocese of Saginaw, passed away on Thursday, November 22, 2018.

Edward was born on April 4, 1934 in Muskegon, Michigan, the son of Alfred Ernest and Irene Blanche (Wehrle) Boucher. He received his elementary education at St. Joseph Catholic School in Muskegon and as a youth, earned the level of Eagle Scout. He was proud of that accomplishment and supported the Boy Scouts throughout his life.

Edward continued his education at St. Joseph Seminary High School in Grand Rapids where he graduated high school and completed his first two years of college. He then spent two years at the School of Philosophy in Montreal, Quebec. He completed his priestly formation at St. John's Seminary in Plymouth, MI, and was ordained to the priesthood on June 4, 1960 by the Most Rev. Allen J. Babcock, Bishop of Grand Rapids, at the Cathedral of St. Andrew in Grand Rapids.

After his ordination he served as assistant pastor at the following parishes: St. John Vianney, Grand Rapids (Wyoming); St. Francis Xavier, Grand Rapids; Cross in the Woods Shrine, Indian River; and St. Mary of Mount Carmel Shrine, Manistee. While in Manistee he taught at Manistee Catholic Central and enjoyed his work with the students. After incardinating into the Diocese of Saginaw in 1971, Fr. Boucher served at St. Vincent de Paul in Shepherd and St. Leo the Great in Winn. In 1972, Father Boucher joined the Navy. He spent the next 22 years as a Navy Chaplain. He traveled the world while serving his country and his career had many highlights including celebrating Christmas Mass at the South Pole Station. He spent time at each of the following during his years of service: Naval Construction Battalion Center, Davisville, Rhode Island; Okinawa, Japan with the 3rd Marine Division; Camp Lejeune Naval Hospital, Jacksonville, North Carolina; U.S. Naval Base in Agate, Guam; Pensacola Naval Hospital, Pensacola, Florida; USS Independence CV-62 in Norfolk, Virginia; USS American CV-66 in Norfolk, Virginia; Naval Submarine Base in Bangor, Washington; Naval Air Station in St. George, Bermuda; and Corry Station in Pensacola, Florida. He became a senior priest of the Diocese of Saginaw in March, 1994. He continued to work at parishes in Alaska, Baldwin and other communities well into his retirement. He was a Fourth Degree Knight of Columbus and a member of St. Michael Catholic Church in Muskegon.

Father Ed had a wonderful sense of humor, could tell a great story, and cared deeply for his family and his church families whom he served. He will be dearly missed by his loving sisters, Jeanette Franczek and Bernadette Boucher, both of Muskegon; nieces and nephews JoAnn (John) Palo of Muskegon, David Beebe of Muskegon, Christopher (Johanna) Franczek of Warsaw, Poland, and Julie Franczek of Spring Lake; four great-nieces and nephews, and eight great-great nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; two sisters, Eileen Beebe and Sr. JoAnn M. Boucher OP; his brother-in-law Joseph Franczek, and his niece Valerie Beebe.

Father Boucher's Funeral Liturgy will be celebrated at 11:00 am on Wednesday, November 28, 2018 at St. Michael the Archangel Church, 1716 Sixth Street, Muskegon, MI 49441. The Most Rev. Walter A. Hurley, Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Saginaw, will preside and Rev. Don Weber will be the homilist.

Visitation will take place on Tuesday, November 27, 2018 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm at St. Michael the Archangel Church with a Rosary offered at 7:30 pm. The family will also greet visitors at the church on Wednesday for an hour prior to Mass. Private interment will take place in St. Mary's Cemetery in Muskegon.

Those wishing to express sympathy are welcomed to consider a contribution in his memory to the Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry in Muskegon. Envelopes will be available at the service or by contacting Verdun Family Funeral home, Belding, Michigan (616)794.1300 or verdunfh.com, who is caring for the arrangements.

*Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him.
May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.*