



The Rev. Monsignor John Finley Porter

1932 - 2022

The Reverend Monsignor John Finley Porter, went home to God, on April 8, 2022. He was born on September 1, 1932, the son of John Louis Porter and Lillian Elizabeth Ferguson Porter at Mercy Hospital in Manistee, Michigan. He was born very prematurely and not expected to survive. As a result, he was baptized at the hospital by a Sister of Mercy and named John after his father who was also named John after his grandfather (Fr. John's great-grandfather) who prior to his service in the Union Army during the Civil War was born at or near Trois Rivieres, Quebec, and named Jean Baptiste Paquin. As a result, his patron saint is John the Baptist. John had two younger siblings: James Leo Porter and Sr. Ann Elizabeth Porter, OP.

After studies at St. Joseph's Seminary in Grand Rapids, he attended the Seminaries de Philosophie branch of the Universite de Montreal (Ph.B en Philosophie) and the North American College in Rome (STL Gregorian University) and later in 1965-66 (JCB in Canon Law) at the Lateran University in Rome. On December 15, 1957, John was ordained a Catholic Priest for the Diocese of Grand Rapids. Fr. John then served as a parish priest and canonist at many parishes in Grand Rapids until he turned seventy-five. Shortly before retiring he was named Chaplain of Honor to his holiness Pope John Paul II with the honorific title of Monsignor. Since retiring he has been blessed to have served at Saint Ann of Frankfort in Frankfort, Michigan.

Fr. John's ordination Mass was the third Sunday of Advent it included only two readings: the Epistle and Gospel as was usual in those days. The First reading was from the Letter to the Philippians 4:4-7, and the Gospel was John 1:19-28. The first reading reminds all of us that we need to rejoice in the Lord always and that our kindness should be evident to all. The Gospel passage outlines the ministry of John the Baptist whose mission was to prepare the way of the Lord, to make straight the way of the Lord without quenching the smoldering wick or breaking the bent reed. As a slow learner, he said "It has taken a long time, much too long a time, to take up the mantle of John". Please pray for Fr. John and pray for all priests, young and elderly. They need your prayers. If you are so moved offerings would be appreciated by Catholic Relief Services, Catholic Charities, and or Catholic New East Welfare Association, Grand Rapids Dominican Sisters, Consolata Missionary Sisters (Belmont), Franciscan Sisters of the Eucharist (Lowell).

Mass of a Christian Burial will take place Monday, April 18, at 10:00 am at Saint Ann of Frankfort, with a visitation one hour prior to the Mass. There will also be a Mass of a Christian Burial on Friday, April 22, at 11:00 am the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish, 6390 Belmont Ave NE, Belmont, MI 49306.

Arrangements by Jowett Family Funeral Home, Benzonia, MI.