

# Msgr. John Mescall

PASTOR EMERITUS AND SEMINARY RECTOR WAS 88

**M**sgr. John Mescall, pastor emeritus of Holy Family in New Rochelle and a former rector of St. Joseph's Seminary in Dunwoodie, died Sept. 3 in Mount Kisco. He was 88.

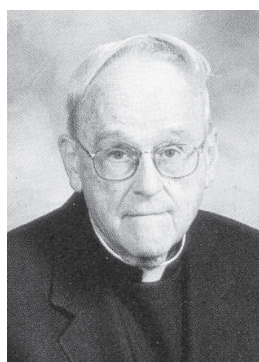
He served as pastor of Holy Family in New Rochelle, 1994-2002, at which time he was named pastor emeritus.

Cardinal Dolan offered the Funeral Mass at Holy Family Church on Sept. 8.

Msgr. Mescall served as rector of St. Joseph's Seminary, 1979-1982. He was vicar for religious, 1970-1973, and associate vicar for religious, 1969.

He also was pastor of Our Lady of the Assumption, the Bronx, 1982-1994, and St. Catharine's, Blauvelt, 1973-1979.

He was a parochial vicar on Staten Island at St. Sylvester's, 1962-1966,



Msgr. John Mescall

and Immaculate Conception, 1952-1960, and St. Matthew's, Hastings-on-Hudson, 1960-1962.

While serving on Staten Island, he was named regional Family Life director, and later served as an archdiocesan consultant.

Msgr. Mescall became a senior priest at Resurrection, Rye, in 2003 and remained there until 2010.

He earlier served as senior priest administrator at St. Joseph's in the Yorkville section of Manhattan in 2002.

Msgr. Dennis Keane, the present pastor of Holy Family, first met Msgr. Mescall while a seminarian at St. Joseph's Seminary, Dunwoodie. Msgr. Mescall was then director of pastoral training and associate spiritual director, 1966-1969.

"He was a very humble person, and really treasured each person as an individual," Msgr. Keane said. His traits of kindness, generosity and charity with his time made him a gifted counselor, he said.

"He was a man who always said 'yes'

to people," he added.

When parishioners suffered through difficult moments in their lives such as the death of a loved one, sickness or the loss of a job, Msgr. Mescall had a special "ministry of presence," Msgr. Keane said.

"Every one I met at the funeral had a tale to tell me about how he was very special to them in their life. It wasn't because he was a great homilist or a theologian that he was remembered. It was because by being with them, he was really present and touched their lives—and that was what Jesus was all about," he said.

The former pastor had a special

love to assist those in need. When he left Holy Family in 2002, the parish started the Msgr. John Mescall Holy Family Fund. Msgr. Mescall generously donated all the monetary gifts he received into the fund.

"We will continue his ministry that way," said Msgr. Keane, who said the fund would continue.

Born in the Bronx, he studied for the priesthood at Cathedral College and St. Joseph's Seminary. He was ordained in 1952 and named a monsignor in 1970. He held a master's degree in counseling from Iona College.

Burial was in Gate of Heaven Cemetery, Valhalla.

## NCEA Seton Award...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

commit to ensure "we have excellent teachers in front of the kids every day...skilled and experienced principals who know how to do administration...clergy that are engaged to keep the pastoral dimensions of our school alive...a whole collection of community people helping us with boards, and...we've got a dynamic and a really committed cardinal who believes in this mission," he said of Cardinal Dolan.

"This recognition is not the end

game," Dr. McNiff said. "There is still and will always be a tremendous amount of work, and sweat equity, that needs to be invested in these schools. But that's the magic and the beauty of why Catholic schools work. It's that continual effort that's being made by so many people."

"The schools were created for one express purpose, and that is to bring the Catholic faith and Jesus Christ to these kids. I absolutely believe that's lived out every day in our schools."

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Most beautiful Flower of Mount Carmel, Fruitful Vine, Splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in this my necessity. Star of the Sea, help me and show me herein you are my mother. Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to assist me in this necessity; there are none that can withstand your power. Show me herein you are my Mother, conceived without sin, and pray for us who have recourse to thee. Sweet Mother, I place this cause in your hands. Amen. W. K. Fox

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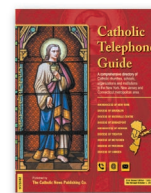
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