

Msgr. George P. Thompson, Former Pastor, Director of Priest Personnel

Msgr. George P. Thompson, a former pastor of St. Patrick parish in Bedford and St. Denis in Yonkers who had also served as director of Priest Personnel and director of vocations for the archdiocese, died Nov. 1. He was 78.

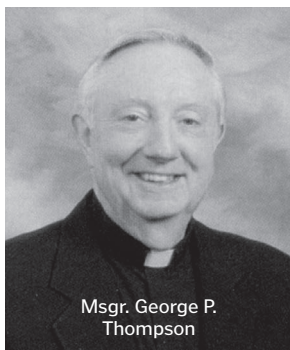
Cardinal Dolan celebrated the Funeral Mass Nov. 7 at St. Patrick Church, Bedford.

Msgr. Walter J. Niebrzydowski, a retired priest in residence at Guardian Angel and St. Columba parish in Manhattan, delivered the homily.

Msgr. Niebrzydowski remembered his friend—both taught at Cathedral Prep Seminary earlier in their priest-hoods—as one who had “a great love of life.”

Msgr. Thompson possessed a keen sense of humor and “was clever on the uptake,” Msgr. Niebrzydowski said. “He could tell a joke extremely well because he had a good gift of mimicry. Just imitating...the people involved was funny. You didn’t have to wait for the punch line. Just his telling of it was funny.”

“He was a calm person and exuded calmness and joy. There was no nega-



Msgr. George P. Thompson

tivity in him. He was just a good person in a non-showy way.”

He was athletic, a good singer and appreciated the natural beauty of national parks as well as art in galleries and museums. For years, Msgr. Thompson and Msgr. Niebrzydowski traveled together, globally and

one year, by car across country, coast to coast. “I was the navigator and he was the driver.”

Above all, he was “a man of prayer,” Msgr. Niebrzydowski recalled. “He took very seriously the celebration of the liturgy” and dutifully prepared his homilies “because he wanted to be a spiritual nourishment to the people” entrusted to his care. “He was a people person, not a paper person. That’s what you want for a pastor to be—focused on serving and serving the flock, the people themselves. He was such a good influence because he was happy in what he was doing, and that’s contagious.”

Msgr. Thompson retired in July 2016 as administrator of St. Patrick’s, where he had served as administrator

since 2014, and pastor, 2002-2014.

He was appointed regional vicar of Northern Westchester/Putnam in 2001. He was director of Priest Personnel, 1999-2002, and assistant director, 1993-1999. He was pastor of St. Denis, Yonkers, 1988-1993. He was rector of Cathedral Prep, 1985-1988, and spiritual director, 1974-1985. He was director of vocations, 1969-1974 and assistant director, 1968-1969.

He served as parochial vicar of St. Joseph’s parish, Greenwich Village, 1967-1968, and St. Joseph’s, Glasco, summer 1966.

He lived in retirement at St. Co-

lumba parish, Hopewell Junction, 2016-2018, before moving to the Edward Cardinal Egan Pavilion of St. John Vianney Priests Residence in the Bronx.

Born in Brooklyn, he attended St. Raymond’s School, the Bronx, Cathedral Prep and Cathedral College in Manhattan. He continued his studies for the priesthood at St. Joseph’s Seminary in Dunwoodie and the Pontifical North American College in Rome, where he was ordained in 1965. He was named a monsignor in 1986.

Interment was at Gate of Heaven Cemetery, Hawthorne.

Sister Lorraine, Served in Guatemala

Sister Lorraine Therese Beinkafner, M.M., who served in Guatemala for 21 years, died Oct. 18 at Maryknoll Sisters Center in Ossining. She was 90.

Sister Lorraine Therese served in Guatemala, 1971-1992. She was assistant director of the development department at Maryknoll, 2001-2004, and also served in Texas, Illinois, Panama and El Salvador.

Born in Albany, she entered the Maryknoll Sisters novitiate in 1946 and professed final vows in 1952.

She earned a bachelor’s degree in education from Maryknoll Teachers College, Ossining, and a master’s in religious education from Mundelein College, Chicago. She received two certificates in clinical pastoral education from St. Francis Medical Center, LaCrosse, Wis.

Sister Lorraine Therese donated her body to science. A Memorial Mass will be offered Monday, Nov. 11, at 11 a.m., in Annunciation Chapel, Maryknoll.

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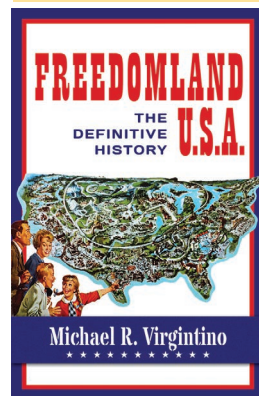
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PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

Holy Spirit, Holy Spirit, you who solve all problems, light all roads so that I may attain my goal. You who give me the divine gift to forgive and forget all evil against me, and that in all instances of my life you are with me. I want in this short prayer to thank you for all things as you confirm once again that I never want to be separated from you, even in spite of all material illusion. I wish to be with you in eternal glory. Thank you for your mercy toward me and mine. Amen. T.C.

PRAYER NOTICES

PRAYER TO ST. JUDE

Holy St. Jude! Apostle and Martyr, great in virtue and rich in miracles, near kinsman of Jesus Christ, faithful intercessor for all who invoke you, special patron in time of need; to you I have recourse from the depth of my heart, and humbly beg you, to whom God has given such great power, to come to my assistance; help me now in my urgent need and grant my earnest petition. I will never forget thy graces and favours you obtain for me and I will do my utmost to spread devotion to you. St. Jude, pray for us and all who honour thee and invoke thy aid. Say three Our Glorias. Amen. M.F.

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