Msgr. Georg Ratzinger, Retired Pope's Brother

Msgr. Georg Ratzinger, a musician and Retired Pope Benedict XVI's elder brother, died July 1. He was 96.

According to Vatican News, Msgr. Ratzinger died in Regensburg, Germany, where he had been hospitalized.

Pope Benedict followed the July 8 Funeral Mass of his brother via livestreaming, reported the German Catholic news agency KNA. Bishop Rudolf Voderholzer of Regensburg said Pope Benedict, 93, was connected to the Mass offered for his brother in the Regensburg Cathedral. During the Mass, the Regensburg bishop recalled the surprise June 18-22 visit Pope Benedict paid to the sickbed of his dying brother.

Born at Pleiskirchen, Germany, Msgr. Ratzinger already was a proficient organist and pianist by the time he entered the minor seminary in Traunstein in 1935. Forced to leave the seminary when war broke out, he was wounded while serving in Italy with Germany's armed forces in 1944 and later was held as a prisoner of war by U.S. forces.

When the war ended, he and his brother enrolled in 1946 in the seminary of the Munich and Freising Archdiocese and were ordained priests five years later. He directed the Regensburg boys' choir from 1964 to 1994, when he retired.

Providing musical accompaniment for the Funeral Mass were 16 former members of the "Domspatzen," the name of the Regensburg Cathedral's world-famous boys' choir that Msgr. Ratzinger directed.

Bishop Voderholzer praised Msgr. Ratzinger's musical contribution and said it made clear how Church music was not an "external ingredient" in a Christian church service. Music itself was "a medium of evangelization," he said.

The Vatican newspaper and KNA reported that alongside Bishop Voderholzer at the altar were Pope Benedict's private secretary, Archbishop Georg Ganswein, and the pope's ambassador to Germany, Archbishop Nikola Eterovic. Among other participants were the former Regensburg bishop, Cardinal Gerhard Muller, and Munich Cardinal Reinhard Marx.



The retired pope had written to his deceased brother a letter, which was read at the ceremony by Archbishop Ganswein.

Recalling his June visit to Regensburg, the retired pope said he said "farewell" to his brother, knowing that "it would be a farewell from this world forever. But we also knew that God, who is good, who gave us this gift of being together in this world, also reigns in the other world, and there He will let us be reunited again." —CNS

Sister Theresa Girolamo, Directed St. Rita's Center

Sister Theresa Angelo Girolamo, O.P., a teacher at Aquinas High School in the Bronx for 11 years, died June 27 at Dominican Convent Siena Hall in Sparkill. She was 80.

She served at St. Rita's Center for Immigrant and Refugees Services, the Bronx, as director, 2015-2019; assistant director, 2005-2015; and coordinator of the English as a Second Language state program, 1994-2005.

Sister Theresa Angelo taught at Aquinas High School, 1983-1994. She also taught at St. Rose of Lima, Manhattan, 1978-1983; St. Catherine of Siena, Manhattan, 1961-1966; and St. Agnes Home and School, Sparkill, 1958-1961.

Sister Theresa Angelo also served in upstate Norwich and Nassau County

Born in the Bronx, she entered the Dominican Sisters of Sparkill in 1958 and professed final

vows in 1965.

She received a bachelor's degree in education from St. Thomas Aquinas College, Sparkill, and a master's in earth science from the University of Oklahoma, Norman.

Her sister, Amy Cammerato, and her brothers, Ralph and Vincent, survive her.

A Funeral Mass was celebrated July 1 in Our Lady of the Rosary Chapel, Sparkill. Burial was in St. Agnes Cemetery, Sparkill.

Father Charles Finnegan, Was Provincial Minister

Father Charles Finnegan, O.F.M., who served as parochial vicar of Holy Cross parish in the Bronx and later was provincial minister of the Franciscans' Holy Name Province, died June 9 in St. Catherine of Siena Nursing Home in Caldwell, N.J. He was 88.

Father Finnegan was at Holy Cross, 1970-1975, and served at the province's House of Prayer, Warwick, 1980-1981.

He was provincial minister, 1976-1980, and served as a provincial councilor, 1973-1976l

He also served in Buffalo, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware and Brazil, where he was a missioner for a decade.

He received an honorary degree from Neumann College, now university, in Aston Township, Pa., in 2006. He retired in 2013.

Born in Manhattan, he attended Holy Name

of Jesus School in Manhattan before entering St. Joseph's Seraphic Seminary in Callicoon, was received into the Franciscans' Holy Name Province in 1951, professed final vows in 1955 and was ordained in 1958.

His brother, Richard Finnegan, and his sister, Eleanor Colgan, survive him.

Burial was June 12 in Mount Calvary Cemetery, Butler, N.J. A Memorial Mass will be scheduled at a later date.

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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. H.F.M.

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