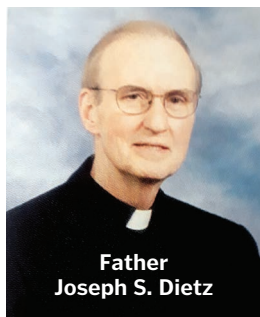


Father Joseph S. Dietz Was Pastor of Church of the Magdalene



Father
Joseph S. Dietz

Father Joseph S. Dietz, who served for 15 years as pastor of Church of the Magdalene in Pocantico Hills, died Sept. 17. He was 80.

Father Dietz was pastor at the Magdalene, from 2000 to until his retirement in 2015. He served as parochial vicar

at Immaculate Heart of Mary parish, Scarsdale, 1994-2000, while serving part time at Catholic Charities. He served as assistant director of Catholic Charities' Department of Family and Children Services, 1991-1994, and at St. Raymond parish, the Bronx, 1987-1991.

Born in Bellmore, he was ordained to the priesthood in 1987 after completing his studies at St. Jo-

seph's Seminary in Dunwoodie. He held a master's degree in social work from Fordham University.

Cardinal Dolan offered the Funeral Mass Sept. 22 at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Scarsdale.

"I taught him at the seminary. He was well-respected among the priests; there will be many concelebrants," Father Anthony Ciorra, vice president of Mission Integration and Ministry at Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, Conn., told Catholic New York. Father Ciorra delivered the homily at the Funeral Mass.

"We have been friends all these years. I preached at his first Mass, and I preached at his 25th jubilee," Father Ciorra said.

"He had a very compassionate and loving way with every person he dealt with. He saw himself in a good way as a wounded hero; he was a recovered alcoholic, sober for over 25 years. He told everybody this.

"He was someone who in his own brokenness, he found God's healing and God's grace...From the very moment that he was diagnosed with cancer, that he was going to die, he immediately accepted it, and was very much at peace."

Father Dietz is survived by his sisters, Joan Schramm and Katherine Samler, and eight nieces and nephews.

Burial was at Holy Rood Cemetery, Westbury, Long Island.

OBITUARIES are archived on Catholic New York's website at www.cny.org

Movie Review...

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London, Micawber tells him, has "more wickedness than any city in the world." But he says this in the manner of someone giving the lay of the land and not as a forecaster of doom.

Micawber is the first of Copperfield's mentors. He shows David that wealth does not translate into moral justice and that ambition sometimes entails hustling.

With little formal education, Copperfield often has trouble learning. But his habit of scribbling down the events of his life on scraps of paper, plus a knack for storytelling, leads him and others to believe he has a writing talent worth nurturing. His fans include the snobbish James Steerforth (Aneurin Barnard), who emerges as the most stalwart of friends, and the even more devoted Agnes Wickfield (Rosalind Eleazar).

Copperfield's gift is likewise recognized both by his donkey-hating great-aunt, Betsey Trotwood (Tilda Swinton), and another distant relative, the troubled Mr. Dick (Hugh Laurie).

Dickens' nuanced portrayal of the latter—who is convinced that the thoughts of the beheaded King Charles I are now lodged in his own brain—sends the message that mental illness can be the result of a battered life and should not be regarded as a moral failing.

The obvious alcoholism of Aunt Betsey's lawyer, and Agnes' father, Mr. Wickfield (Benedict Wong), is played for comedy. But he, too, eventually emerges as a sympathetic victim of Heep's perfidy.

Films with large casts based on 19th-century literature can sometimes leave the audience

feeling lost and yearning for both a syllabus and study guide. But this version of "David Copperfield," like Greta Gerwig's 2019 adaption of "Little Women," is meant to show that these characters still have a great deal to say to modern viewers.

A century-and-a-half on, Dickens' sense of morality and belief that pure unselfish love and loyalty sustain lives remain unscathed by time.

The film contains mature themes, including mental illness, alcoholism and poverty. The Catholic News Service classification is A-II—adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association rating is PG—parental guidance suggested. Some material may not be suitable for children.

Jensen is a guest reviewer for Catholic News Service.

PRAYER NOTICES

ANCIENT PRAYER TO ST. JOSEPH

O St. Joseph, whose protection is so great, so strong, so prompt before the throne of God, I place in you all my interests and desires. O St. Joseph, do assist me by your powerful intercession and obtain for me from your Divine Son all spiritual blessings through Jesus Christ, Our Lord; so that having engaged here below your heavenly power, I may offer my thanksgiving and homage to the most loving of Fathers, O St. Joseph, I never weary contemplating you and Jesus asleep in your arms. I dare not approach while He reposes near your heart. Press Him in my name and kiss His fine Head for me, and ask Him to return the kiss when I draw my dying breath. St. Joseph, patron of departing souls, pray for me. Amen. C.T.M.

PRAYER NOTICES

PRAYER TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN

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.

M.L.

PRAYER NOTICES

PRAYER TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN

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H.F.M.

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