Reverend Francis "Frank" Zakshesky

September 3, 1944 - March 18, 2017

Father Francis “Frank” Zakshesky, one of the 39 original priests of the Diocese of Tyler, has died.

Father Zakshesky died at his home in Sinton, TX. He was 72.

His rosary, led by Bishop Joseph E. Strickland, will be Monday, March 27, 2017 at 6 p.m. at Stewart Family Funeral Home, 7525 Old Jacksonville Highway in Tyler. Bishop Strickland will celebrate Mass of Christian Burial Tuesday, March 28, 2017 at 12:30 p.m. in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Tyler.

Interment will follow in the diocesan section of Rose Hill Cemetery in Tyler under the direction of Stewart Family Funeral Home.

Father Francis “Frank” Zakshesky, one of the diocese’s founding priests, served parishes in Texarkana, Longview, and Palestine.

Francis Zakshesky was born September 3, 1944, in Alpena, Michigan, to Anthony and Regina Kapalla Zakshesky. He was baptized in St. Casimir Church in Posen and graduated from Alpena Catholic Central High School in 1962.

He did not immediately enter the seminary, but chose a career in engineering. He received a Bachelor of Science in electrical engineering from Michigan Technological University in 1966 and a Master of Science in electrical engineering from Southern Methodist University in Dallas in 1974.

He spent the next 10 years in Dallas, working for Rockwell International Corporation as an electrical engineer, first in communications and then in

computers. He helped design technology used by the U.S. Air Force.
After a decade at Rockwell, he began to discern a vocation to the priesthood. In 1976, he entered Holy Trinity Seminary in Dallas and began studying for that diocese.
Father Zakshesky was ordained a priest of the Diocese of Dallas May 2, 1981, at Holy Spirit Church in Duncanville by Bishop Thomas Tschoepe.
He served as parochial vicar in St. Mark Church in Plano (1981-1984) and St. Paul the Apostle Church in Richardson (1984-1985). In July 1985, he was named pastor of Sacred Heart Church in Texarkana.
When the Diocese of Tyler was created in 1987 from the Dioceses of Dallas, Beaumont, and Galveston-Houston, Father Zakshesky was one of 39 priests who were incardinated into the new diocese. He served as an auditor for the Tribunal in the early days of that office. He also was a member of the Priests' Pension Board.
Father Zakshesky was pastor of Sacred Heart in Texarkana until Oct. 21, 1993, when he was reassigned as pastor of St. Anthony Church in Longview. He served there until 1995, when he moved to Sacred Heart Church in Palestine as priest-in-residence while he sought a chaplaincy in the Federal Correctional System.
In 1996, he requested early retirement from active ministry for medical reasons.
After retirement, he spent some time in his native Alpena, caring for his ailing mother until her death, and then moved to South Texas for health reasons, where he remained until his death.

Cemetery Details

Rose Hill Cemetery

2400 S. Donnybrook
Tyler, TX 75702

Previous Events

Rosary

MAR **27**. 6:00 PM (CT)

Stewart Family Funeral Home
7525 Old Jacksonville Hwy
Tyler, TX 75703
(903) 581-2008

Mass of Christian Burial

MAR **28**. 12:30 PM (CT)

Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception
423 S. Broadway
Tyler, TX 75702

Tribute Wall

PP

The family of Leo and Helen Zakshesky(Rev. Francis' Uncle) send their condolences to Frank's cousins and friends. Uncle Leo's(Aunt Helen's) family: Patricia(Tony Palazzolo), Dorothy(Ron Raniszewski) and John and James (Mary Ann) remember the times when we visited with Frank and his family in Levering, Mi, driving all the way from Posen, MI. Frank's brother and his two sisters always made us feel welcome. Uncle Tony and Aunt Rigena raised a wonderful family....Rev. Francis Zakshesky left a wonderful footprint on this earth...Memories from his cousin, Patricia

Patricia Palazzolo - March 28, 2017 at 01:15 PM