



Msgr. Leroy Braden

JUL 23, 2009



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FUNERAL HOME AND CREMATORY

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Msgr. Leroy Braden

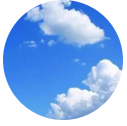
JUL 23, 2009

Rev. Msgr. Leroy H. Braden, passed away peacefully on July 23, 2009. He is preceded in death by his parents, Rockus Braden and Louise Wendel Braden; and brothers Leon and Lenard Braden. He is survived by his sisters, Mary Louise Hacker & her husband Martin, Sister Elaine Braden; brother, William Braden & his wife Connie; nephews & nieces David , James & Robert Hacker, Paul & Eddie Braden, and Theresa & Barbara Powell. The family would like to thank Msgr. Braden's good friend and caretaker Mary Marks.

Msgr. Braden was born on August 5, 1926 in Mentz, Texas. His family moved to Wharton County when he was seven and he attended Jones Creek School. In 1943 he graduated from Crescent High School. Msgr. Braden entered St. Mary's Seminary in La Porte in 1946 and was ordained a priest there by Bishop Wendelin J. Nold on May 30, 1953. The next day, he celebrated his first Solemn Mass at St. Philip Catholic Church in El Campo, Texas. Msgr. Braden's assignments as Assistant Pastor were at St. Mary's Cathedral in Galveston, St. Christopher Catholic Church and Corpus Christi Catholic Church, both in Houston, Texas. As Pastor, his past parishes include St. Mary Catholic Church in Plantersville, with a mission church at St. Joseph's in Stoneham, Texas, St. Augustine Catholic Church and St. Christopher Catholic Church, both in Houston, Texas. In June 1984, he became the pastor of St. Helen Catholic Church in Pearland, Texas.

In recognition of his outstanding priestly ministry, Msgr. Braden was made an Honorary Prelate with a title of Monsignor by Pope John Paul I on December 5, 1978. Besides his parish ministry, Msgr. Braden was also active in Engaged and Marriage Encounter, Seafarers Center, Chaplain of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Knights of Columbus, Alhambra, and Catholic Life Insurance Union. He was a charter member of the Pearland Ministerial Alliance. He has also served as Dean of the Southeast Deanery and a member of Personnel Board and Priest Senate of the diocese.

Visitation for Msgr. Braden will be held on Monday, July 27, 2009 from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm, with the Rosary being recited at 7:00 pm, at St. Helen Catholic Church in Pearland. Msgr. Reginald R. Nesvadba will be presiding. The Mass of Christian Burial will begin at 10:00 am at St. Helen



Obituary

Msgr. Leroy Braden

Catholic Church on Tuesday, July 28, 2009. Archbishop Joseph A. Fiorenza will be presiding. A meal will follow the Mass in Helena Hall. Interment is at Forest Park Lawndale Cemetery in Houston. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. Helen Catholic School, 2213 Old Alvin, Pearland, TX 77581, 281-485-2845.



Tribute Wall

Msgr. Leroy Braden

PC

Paul Daniel Clark posted:

In 1963 when I was born, Msgr. Braden baptized me.

March 2 at 7:00 PM

PM

Peggy Sue Hall Mcwhorter posted:

Fr. Braden always called me Margaret because, after all, there is no Saint Peggy and Fr. Fulkerson had baptized me "Margaret". At St. Christopher's he taught me how to play volleyball and softball. When we were children, he was the preferred priest for confession. We could always count on his gentle understanding and a penance of 3 Our Fathers and 3 Hail Marys. I was overjoyed to find him as the pastor of St. Helen when my family moved to Pearland in the 1990's. I loved to hear him say, "and furthermore" and I still believe that he was the most faith-filled man I have ever known.

September 11 at 7:00 PM

LA

Lanny Adelman posted:

I first met Father Braden when I joined the Catholic Young Adults club at St. Christopher's. He later married my wife, Jeanette Peters and myself. He had a very special place in the hearts of all who met him, and he will be missed as the kindly and very religious priest that we all knew. I am sure that God has a very special place reserved for him in Heaven.

August 2 at 7:00 PM

AY

Alan Young posted:

He was like a mentor to me at St. Christopher's School. I went there from Kindergarten till eighth grade. I was an altar boy many years there and absolutely loved to serve when he was there. He was so revered, loved, and cherished by me and so many others. Always forgiving, and so patient with everyone. He will be missed, but never forgotten. Rest in Peace...

August 1 at 7:00 PM



JB

Joan Peters Bowman posted:

My family was a long time member of St. Christopher's, where we attended both church and school. Father Leroy Braden was a beloved fixture there with his kindness, his enthusiasm, and his love of God. He may have been a small and humble priest, but he was a spiritual giant. This was evidenced by the long confessional lines always waiting for him! His was a heart for God and for service. Msgr. Braden will always remain in the hearts and prayers of those who were fortunate enough to know him.

July 28 at 7:00 PM

PW

Peggy Wendelken posted:

Fr. Braden will forever be in my memory. I will always remember his smile, sense of humor, and his sincere desire to help people. He coached the girls softball team at St. Christopher's during the 1960's. My sister, Jackie Bailey, was the catcher. I will be forever grateful for the kindness he showed my sister.

July 28 at 7:00 PM

PJ

Pam Palmer Johnson posted:

Fr. Leroy, as I always called him, was described as "one of the most priestly priests" by my mother years ago when she was the parish secretary at St. Christopher's. And she was right. I grew up and went to school at St. Christopher's during the late fifties and early sixties when Father Leroy and Fr. Hamilton were assistants to Msgr. Fulkerson. "Little Red," as he was known around the rectory was always a lot of fun and enjoyed being with the youth of the parish. Over the years, Father was a true friend, burying both my parents and keeping in touch after I moved from Houston. I looked forward to his Christmas letters updating us on his travels. I remember he told us that upon approach to Ireland, it did look from the air as if it was made up of "40 shades of green!" If anyone can fulfill their vocation in life perfectly, then it would have to be Father Leroy. He loved being a priest and it was evident to everyone who ever came in contact with him. Our loss is heaven's gain—and if we are fortunate, he'll be there to welcome us home one day.

July 28 at 7:00 PM



Richard A. Viguerie posted:

: I first met Father Braden when he was a newly ordained Priest at St. Christopher in the early 1950 s and he became a life-long dear friend. And I suspect there are thousands of people that will say Monsignor Braden was a friend.I would most certainly be there with you for the wake and funeral service except I am leaving today for a European cruise.One of the many ministries Father Braden had was to the young adults club at St. Christopher in the 1950 s, early 1960 s. And through his leadership many life-long friendships and marriages were formed.He married my wife and me in 1962 as well as one of our daughters and her husband 32 years later (in Virginia). He would have performed the ceremony for our other daughter except for being on one of the many cruises he and his Priest classmates so enjoyed.For over twenty-five years, about every year or two, he would spend one to two weeks in Virginia with us, sometimes traveling with another Priest. In 1973 when we acquired a couple hundred acres in the Virginia countryside that s when he seemed to come alive.Having grown up on a farm, he loved getting on our tractor and I guess it was like he was a boy again. In fact, on his last visit to us some years ago, he was using the weed eater on a hillside and slipped and damaged his leg so badly that I don t think he ever recovered from that injury.Though Monsignor Braden was not a physically large man, he was a spiritual giant and he was an important influence in my life and in thousands of others — a long life well lived in the service of our Lord.P.S. Wednesday night I had a dream that a Priest had given me a letter saying Monsignor had died. It was one of those dreams that felt very real.

July 27 at 7:00 PM



Rev. Dr. Brian K. Gige posted:

Msgr. Braden was my colleague and friend. He welcomed me as the new Lutheran pastor to Pearland in 1997 and participated in my installation service demonstrating his ecumenical heart and openness to all through the gospel. He further demonstrated that ecumenical spirit as one of the founders of the Pearland Ministerial Alliance.His dedication to the well-being of all God's people living in this community will remain an example to all for many years to come.Rest in peace, my friend. Your name is written in the Book of Life!Rev. Dr. Brian K. Gige, Pastor New Life Lutheran Church Pearland, TX

July 27 at 7:00 PM



Barbara & Nelson Metzler posted:

Msgr Braden has meant a lot to our family. He had instructions from and was baptised by him in1953. In 1954 he married my husband and I at Roman Catholic Chapel #2 at Ellington AFT. In 1958 baptised our first son Zeke Metzler. In 1961 baptised our second son Jeff Metzler and in 1981 baptised our first granddaughter. We have the crusifix he gave for us a wedding present hanging in our bedroom. He was truly a blessed man. Our condolences to his family.

July 26 at 7:00 PM



Tribute Wall

Msgr. Leroy Braden

MF

Melanie Fox posted:

Msgr Braden touched so many lives including mine, first at St. Christopher's where I attended school and he coached volleyball and softball, and then at St. Helen's where he married my husband and I in 1992. He will be in our hearts always.

July 26 at 7:00 PM

MV

Marie Valadez posted:

Msgr. Braden was an angel on this earth. Fr. Braden was my volleyball coach (with my Dad) and we drove all over town to games. What a riot! He will never be forgotten, what a man of God!

July 26 at 7:00 PM

SW

Sarah Woodward posted:

He will be very missed. I first met Msgr when I was a student at St. Christopher's, we all thought he was amazing. Then again at St. Helen's school where my daughter went to school. He is the Greatest!

July 26 at 7:00 PM

BM

Bobby Mcgoldrick posted:

Msgr Braden was such a rare treasure. I had the pleasure of getting to know him through Engaged Encounter and Marriage Encounter. It was such an amazing thing to watch how quickly the engaged couples bonded to him and created a lasting impression. He was so much fun to be around and I learned a tremendous amount about our Catholic faith through his teachings. He was a tireless volunteer who never hesitated to help out even during his "retirement". Thank you Msgr Braden for all that you did.

July 25 at 7:00 PM

LM

Lisa Merino posted:

I am so sorry to hear about the passing of Msgr. Braden. He was truly an angel on earth. He married my husband and I in 1983 and while in Mexico, a few years later, he stayed at our home in Mexico City. We were so blessed to know him.

July 25 at 7:00 PM



Tribute Wall

Msgr. Leroy Braden

MH

Michael And Amy Hamilton posted:

Thank you Msgr. Braden for brightening Engaged Encounter with your big smile and funny jokes. You made a positive impact on all you encountered. Peace be with you.

July 25 at 7:00 PM

JO

Joan Ownbey posted:

I met Father Braden when he was sent to St. Augustine Catholic Church. I was also a student at the time at St. Augustine Catholic School. I remember that he helped coach the girls softball team that I was on. He was very supportive and caring. He will be greatly missed by many people. God Bless you Father Braden. We will always remember your caring spirit.

July 25 at 7:00 PM

PH

Polly Horlander posted:

Father Braden was a jewel! When I lived in Alaska he sent me a Christmas card signed, "Fr. Braden". Then he added that, though he was Msgr., he preferred the title of 'Father'. His humility was just one of many endearing qualities. Heaven is a bit more lively with him there!

July 25 at 7:00 PM

AL

Adrian Leal posted:

Msgr. Braden will be missed. He touched so many people with his work at St. Chris and later at St. Helens...I had the pleasure of growing up at St. Chris and the honor of serving as an altar boy with him. I also got to play pool with his dog which was always a riot!His ministries with the St. Chris youth, the newly formed Hispanic Community at St. Chris, Marriage Encounter, the HOUSTON INTERNATIONAL SEAFARERS' CENTER , the annual bazaar stick out in my mind.God Bless you Msgr. Braden!!

July 23 at 7:00 PM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Leroy by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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