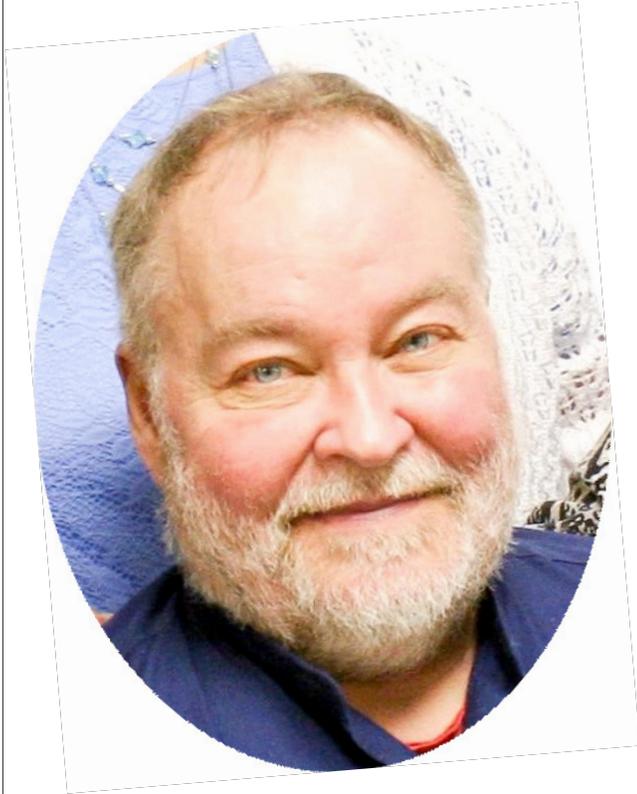


Always for Others By Easter Almuena



You are the image and likeness of God
But with you the morning awakens
With the call to rise
Not for you
But always for others.

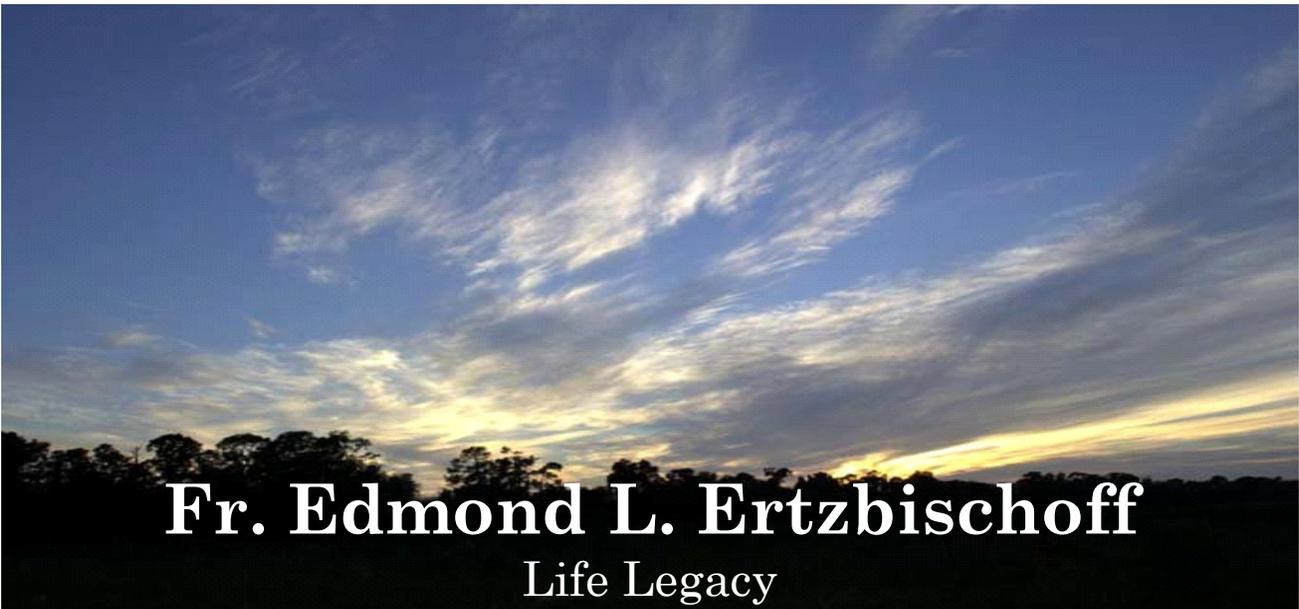
God handpicked you from a myriad of
souls
Molded you since you were a babe
To prepare you for a journey
Not for you
But always for others.

God blessed you with wisdom
To use to give form to his plans
And love to carry them out
Not for you

But always for others.
Mary walks with you
Guiding and loving you
For to her you are a Christ
Not for you
But always for others.

You hold the Body of Christ
Embrace his name and proclaim it
And a father and counselor you have become
Not for you
But always for others.

God forever bless you
Walk and carry you when your feet are weary
Bring peace and joy to your heart
For though your life is never for you
It is Christ's and he delights in you.



Fr. Edmond L. Ertzbischoff

Life Legacy

Age 67, passed away Monday, October 3, 2016. He was born March 11, 1949 in Highland Park, MI, the son of the late Edmond and Barbara (Edwards) Ertzbischoff. Fr. Ed graduated from Cardinal Mooney Latin High School in Detroit in 1967 and then attended Sacred Heart Seminary in Detroit where he graduated in 1971 with a BA Degree. In 1974 he graduated with a Master of Divinity from St. John Provincial Seminary in Plymouth and ordained for Diocese of Lansing on May 1, 1976. Fr. Ed's past assignments include: St. Joseph Catholic Church, Owosso, MI, St. Gerard Catholic Church, Lansing, MI, St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church, Ann Arbor, MI, St. Joseph Church and Shrine, Brooklyn, MI, St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, Ypsilanti, MI and St. Joseph Catholic Church, Ypsilanti, MI. He enjoyed nature and spending time at his cabin up north. Survivors include: six siblings, Julia Ertzbischoff-Donahue, Lawrence (Corinne), Brian (Kathy) and Gary Ertzbischoff, Linda Johnson and Barbara Ertzbischoff; two aunts, Patricia Edwards and Joanne Chambo; and several nieces, nephews and cousins. In addition to his parents, he is preceded in death by one brother, Roger Ertzbischoff; brother-in-law, Raymond Donahue; niece, Julie Kutchev; grandparents, Edmond and Suzanne (Grandgirad) Ertzbischoff and Melvin and Lucille (Siedler) Edwards; uncle and Godfather, George Ertzbischoff; aunt, Catherine Ertzbischoff; and uncles, James Edwards and Donald Chambo. A Mass of Christian burial was celebrated on Friday, October 7, 2016 at 11am at St. Joseph Catholic Church, 9425 Whittaker Rd., Ypsilanti with Most Rev. Earl Boyea officiating.



“O CAPTAIN! my Captain! our fearful trip is done;
The ship has weather'd every rack, the prize we sought is won...
The ship is anchor'd safe and sound, its voyage closed and done;
From fearful trip, the victor ship, comes in with object won;
Exult, O shores, and ring, O bells!” **Walt Whitman**

It is with sorrow that we mourn the passing of our Pastor and Shepherd, Fr. Ed Ertzbischoff. And we celebrate with him his new life in the Lord. (I wonder if he joined all the priests in the “waiting room” (Purgatory) as he was so fond of saying.)

My association with him goes back many years, possibly even 25 when I was head of the Parish Pastoral Council at Holy Trinity and we worked together on projects with St. John the Baptist. Some years later, after I was ordained, he invited me to assist him at the annual Memorial Day Mass he officiated at the St. John cemetery. That was the beginning of a long friendship. In many ways, he was the influence in my final decision to come to St. Joseph.

Fr. Ed, though he had his moments, was a very peaceful man. I will always picture him in his recliner with at least two of his cats sleeping on his chest/stomach. He bore his infirmities with grace and very little complaint. He had a quick wit and a sly sense of humor that took a while to catch on to.

For Ed was a gifted preacher. In a few words he would capture the essence of the readings and yet completely explain them in a way the everyone could understand. His wedding homilies were always inspiring to the bride and groom, as well as the entire congregation. Personally, I think his skill really showed forth in his funeral homilies. Whether he was talking about a long-time acquaintance or someone he never met in life, a listener would believe that he knew the person intimately. He always struck the right note and delivered the right message,

We miss him!

Peace, Blessings, and Joy
Deacon Stan

For over 25 years Fr. Ed was my pastor, counselor, spiritual guidance and most importantly my friend. This picture was taken on the happiest day of my life, the day I married my best friend! Fr. Ed also was an inspiration in getting my husband back to the church. Over the years we shared many good and bad times. It was more than a privilege to help care for him up until his final days. Thank you Fr. Ed for being such an inspiration for David and I.

David and Laura Fox



Fr Ed is such an inspiration in how he continued to serve from a wheel chair.

God can use all of us to do his work!

Blessings
Tim Offerle



I grew up with all of the Ertzbischoff families as we lived on the same block as his grandparents and aunt and uncle. The Ertzbischoff's were my second family and my best friend Dennis Ertzbischoff, who we have been friends for over sixty +++ years. Father Ed performed his first wedding as a priest for my wife and I on June 4, 1976. I was fortunate to visit Father Ed a couple times in September 2016 on my travels back and forth to Aurora, IL where we were awaiting our second grandson's birth, which Matthew Luke Rayrate was born on October 5, 2016.

We will truly miss Father Ed. I'm sure God has a special place for him, May he rest in peace. Amen

Phillip and Mary Ann Rayrat



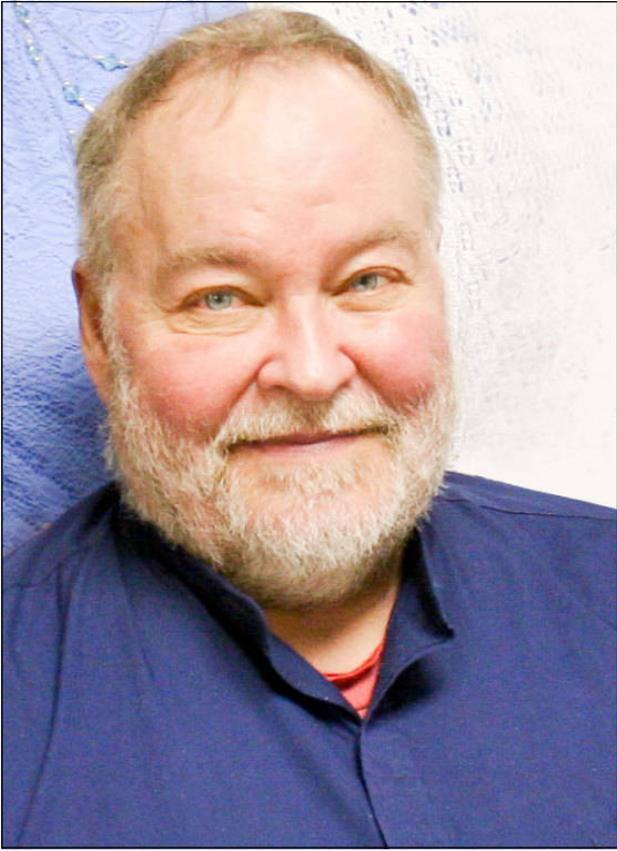
Father Ed loved the priesthood. You could tell by his interactions with St. Joseph Church members because he understood the important role he had in sharing God's message. He'll always be remembered by my family as the priest who officiated two sacraments for our children.

As the church photographer at various events, I had the privilege of capturing many special moments of Father Ed, such as children receiving their First Communion or the parish community celebrating the church's 125th year. One of those moments involved his own family. As his family gathered around him for the photos, I could sense the love and pride they had for him. It's those same feelings that many of us here at St. Joseph's Church had for him -- something we'll all treasure regarding his time with us.



The Wadley family

Jared, Deanna,
Jordan and Devin



I first met Fr. Ed when he filled in for a couple funerals here at St. Joe's before he was assigned here in 2009. So when he became our Pastor, I welcomed him and have had the pleasure of working with him these last seven years. I vividly remember his first mass and homily here at St. Joe's. I forget what the scripture readings were for that weekend, but his homily was on "specifics", and how a simple period, or comma at the beginning or end of a sentence could really make a difference. To emphasize his point, he gave the example of placing a period after the abbreviation Fr for Father before his first name Ed. If it wasn't for that specific period, I would be Fred instead of Fr. Ed. After mass that day I was talking to him briefly before he went

into Maria Hall for coffee and doughnuts. I said, Fr. Ed, you're going to have some confused people who are now going to think you're Fred instead of Fr. Ed. He laughed it off and simply said, "no, I made it perfectly clear to everyone." I replied, "ok...but don't say I didn't warn you". As we were sitting in Maria Hall I heard a conversation at the adjoining table and I heard a little elderly lady say...."I thought they said we were getting a Fr. Ed here at St. Joe's, and now you said your name was Fred!! He glanced at me, and I just laughed and said..."told you so!!"..probably the last time I ever got to say that to him. So after that, to many of us he was known as Fred!!

I think that was what endeared him to us so much...he was Fr. Ed, but he was one of us....traveling this road we call life together with all of us. The one thing I admired most about Fr. Ed was the gift he had for praying. As all of you know, when he celebrated mass and there were times when he was required to say a prayer, he didn't need a book with scripted prayers in it...he simply closed his eyes and "prayed" from the heart,...and oh what came out...it simply flowed, and like I said it was from the heart.

Continued...

Fr. Ed was always “present” to his family here at St. Joe’s...whether it was presiding at a funeral, celebrating first communion/confirmation with the young people of our parish....visiting those at the hospital who needed to make peace with God before as he said taking the next step of the journey. He was a part of everything that made our little Cathedral in the Pines so special to all of us, encouraging us to continue building the Kingdom of God, as the people before of us have done for 125 years. He was there with us as we opened and closed that special year of celebration, enjoying and his bright blue eyes sparkling with pride as he said once, I have a retirement place up north, but also right here at 9425 Whittaker Rd.

As I said earlier, Fr. Ed loved Liturgy, and he always said “keep it simple, but do it well.”, and he wanted to make sure that would happen for his funeral, wanting assurance that everything was in order for his “graduation”.

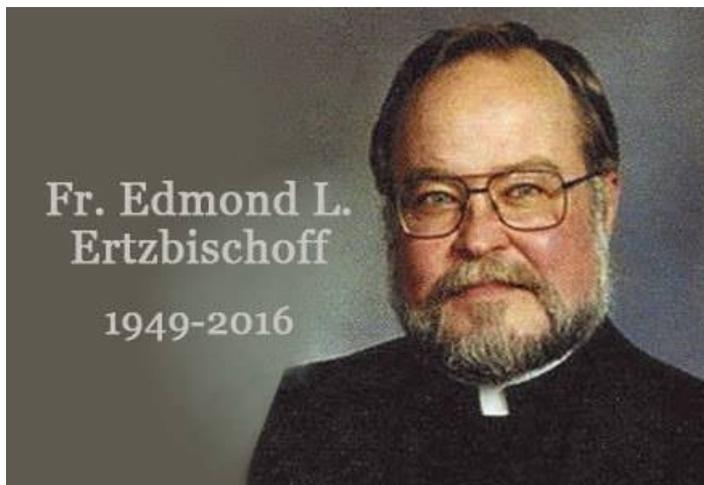
I certainly learned a lot about “life” from Fr. Ed, but in the last two weeks

I was honored to learn more about the end of our earthly life, and it was a “gift” that I will forever treasure when he was able to tell many of us that what he had been preaching for years about what awaits after our earthly life was true, because he was witnessing some of it and sharing it with us before he took his final step to eternal life early Monday morning. And he did it with dignity...never complaining about it, but “accepting it” as part of that next step....as he told me, “the biggest journey of my life” And when he took that final step, I’m sure he wasn’t afraid, I dare say he was looking forward to it He knew what was waiting for him and now he is enjoying his eternal reward and every day is a day enjoying the view from Ocqueoc...and more.

To Fr. Ed’s family, we thank-you for sharing your brother/uncle/cousin with us.

Fr. Ed, my colleague, and “Fred” my friend...Godspeed to you, and well done, good and faithful servant!!

Don Kreiner
Director of Liturgical Music



My husband, Jim Magiera, and I did not know Father Ed before he came to pastor St. Joseph Catholic Church in Whittaker.

Jim and Father Ed had an instant rapport with their love for the area up north where Father Ed's house was located. Jim and I own some acreage in that area. Also for Jim's and Father Ed's love for half price pizza at the Red Rooster.

We take our fifth wheel up north for summer weeks and Jim goes to this area for fall hunting. We regret we never got together with Father Ed when we were in that area.

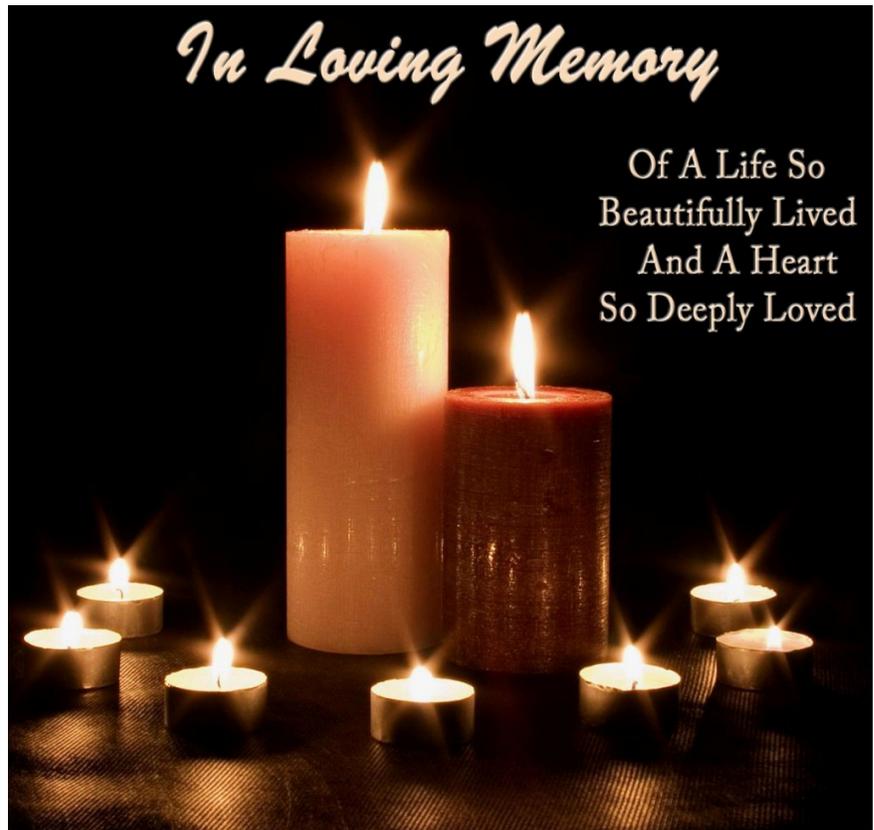
Father Ed was easy to talk to. He talked at a level of understanding, never judging or intimidating. We enjoyed his down to earth sermons that related to our daily life with constructive advice and actions to strengthen your faith.

At hospitality on Saturday after 5:00pm Mass, I would talk with him of our mutual favorite show, Under the Radar. This show is a travel log of place in Michigan. They once did a program up the East Coast of Michigan from Alpena to Mackinac City. They highlighted familiar places in the area that we had visited. We enjoyed recalling former visits to these places.

Memories of Father Ed and his time with our parish are appreciated and cherished. He is missed.

May God bless him and have mercy on his soul and take him to paradise.

James and Gloria Magiera



I have been blessed to humbly serve as housekeeper to various rectories and parishes since the early 90s. Within this time, I have developed friendships with several priests, deacons, and church personnel. Fr. Ed was more than a friend, he was family. Through him, I was shown Christ's unconditional love and mercy. Fr Ed was in many ways a big brother to me. I always looked forward to our weekly lunches and conversations. He was a fantastic listener and terrific story teller. His laugh not only would fill the room, but would brighten the darkest mood. He truly was a bright light for me. I am so thankful for his friendship.

Karen Grubaugh



Fr Ed was a good man. He was genuine and very approachable. Knowing him and talking with him through the years was a gift. I am thankful for his prayers and will continue to pray for his eternal peace.

Rock Grubaugh.

Fr. Ed was a special person for our Granddaughter, Sofia Jaimes. She started coming to church with us when she was very young. We told her that church was God's house. She simply assumed that Fr. Ed was God and thus gave him the name "Goddie". She was very upset after we went to his going away party at St. Johns. She said we could not go to St. Johns because Goddie was being transferred. So we decided to follow him. One of her favorite things to do was to push him back to the rectory in his wheel chair and then visit his cats. Her big question was when could she receive Communion and we told her she must be Baptized first. Her mother gave us permission to see her thru this. Fr. Ed Baptized her. Sofia still does not realize how very special the whole ceremony was. So personal and something we will never forget. It was the beginning of her journey in the church and she has since received Communion and become an Altar Server. We will forever hold Fr. Ed close to our hearts for helping us thru this.

Richard and Susan Stacy

Fr. Ed was like a beer drinking cigar smoking cowboy. His life was like a wild mustang that sometimes threw him. But he always got back on because he had promised God to deliver the word. And he did so Very Very well.

Butch Crawford



Fr. Ed was a generous man. I cooked for the rotating homeless shelter at St. John's. He didn't want the men to have just a snack when they came. He wanted them to have a hot meal every night and that's what they got, no expense spared. Fr. Ed would come and sit with the guys and talk with his ball cap with the pony tail on. They never knew him as a priest, he was just one of them. One of the other fond memories of Fr. Ed were his great homilies, no one could give one like him. Miss him and his homilies.

Connie Crawford

What do you mean I need a haircut.

Everything needs Franks Hot Sauce

Bob Hinderer



Three and a half years ago I lost my beloved husband Bob suddenly. We had forty eight years of a very loving and truly blessed marriage having four wonderful children all happily married and thirteen grandchildren. Since I could not bear going back to St. John Neumann's Parish without Bob I changed to St. Joseph's Parish to be with my two daughters and four granddaughters, Beth Chie, Clare and Paige and Darlene Montgomery, Addison and Meghan who makes her First Communion this year. I also have know MaryAnn and Jerome Blaszak, our children went to school together at St. Anthony's, wonderful loving friends. I felt so welcomed and we all enjoyed Fr. Ed's humor, inspiring sermons and humble ways. We left Mass feeling good, taking his message with us and blessed. It reminds us of my other Parish St. Mary's in Lake Leelanau, Michigan. This is where Bob's Mass was and buried at St. Mary's Cemetery. Bob always called the area his Heaven on Earth. He always told me that is where he wanted to be buried when he died. It reminds me of Fr. Ed calling St. Joseph's Parish his Shrine in the Woods. We all miss him very much and know he is in Heaven with God watching over his beloved Parish.

Pauline Womac