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## Rev. James Bretl | 1936 - 2010 | Obituary



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### Rev. James Bretl

August 29, 1936 - October 06, 2010

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Rev. James J. Bretl, SDS, age 74, known in the community as Father Jim, was called to his eternal reward on October 6, 2010. He was born in Northeast Wisconsin on August 29, 1936, son of Alex and Nathalie (Baudhuin) Bretl who have preceded him in death. Also preceding him in death are Francis and William Bretl, brothers, also of Northeast Wisconsin as well as his sister, Eunice (Bretl) Zettel of Fairfax, Virginia. Surviving are his brother David Bretl of Rockford, Illinois and his twin sister, Joyce (Bretl) Cole of Orlando, Florida.

Father Bretl was a member of the Society of the Divine Savior (commonly known as Salvatorians) having pronounced his vows of poverty, chastity and obedience on September 8, 1958. He continued to prepare for ordination to the priesthood by completing the required courses of Philosophy and Theology at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. and was ordained on June 5, 1965.

Following ordination, Father Bretl was challenged with a variety of assignments that took him first to Tanzania, E. Africa. He also served as associate pastor for several years at St. Theresa Church in Carson City, Nevada before being called to serve as chaplain at the Arizona State Mental Hospital in Phoenix, Arizona. After serving as chaplain, pastor, Director of Personal and Director of Pastoral Care at various locations in the Midwest, Father Bretl came to McMinnville, Tennessee as Pastor of St. Catherine Catholic Church and St. Gregory Catholic Church in Smithville, Tennessee where he served the faith communities for ten years before his retirement in 2006.

Father Bretl reached out beyond his own faith community. He was an active member of the Greater McMinnville Ministerial Association, served as volunteer chaplain and a member of the Ethics Committee for River Park Hospital. For more than twelve years Father Bretl served on the Warren County FEMA Board, the Emergency Food Bank Board as well as the Habitat for Humanity Board. After a fact-finding visit to Haiti in the year 2000, Father Bretl was instrumental in establishing what has come to be known as The Haiti Project, a collaborative ministry of the Salvatorians, to provide financial and humanitarian support to a twinning parish at Riviere Mancelle in Haiti.

A celebration of Father Bretl's life and ministry will be at St. Catherine Catholic Church at 11 A.M. Wednesday, October 13, 2010, with Father David Cooney officiating. Throughout his ministry Father Bretl was called to serve and love in a special way some of the poorest of the poor. He has requested, therefore, that in lieu of flowers a contribution be made to the Warren County Food Bank.

Online condolences may be made at [www.mcminnvillefuneralhome.com](http://www.mcminnvillefuneralhome.com)

McMinnville Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. 931-473-6606.

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