



Rev. Donald J. Cooper

January 27th, 1936 - December 16th, 2011

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The Reverend Donald J. Cooper, 75, died Friday, December 16, 2011 at St. Vincent Health Center, Erie following a long illness. Born January 27, 1936 in Erie, he was the son of the late Frank and Ethel Kinter Cooper. He was preceded in death also by three brothers, Thomas, Gerald, and a twin brother Ronald; one sister Cecelia, and his uncle the Rev. Cyril H. Cooper. His home parish was St. John the Baptist, Erie. Father Cooper attended St. Mary's and St. John the Baptist Schools in Erie, PA, and graduated from Cathedral Preparatory School in 1955. He entered St. Mark Seminary in Erie, PA, attended Gannon College and then graduated from St. Mary Seminary and University in Baltimore, MD in 1963. He was ordained a priest on May 23, 1963 at St. Peter Cathedral in Erie by Bishop Edward P. McManaman. Following ordination in 1963, Fr. Cooper was assigned to the faculty of Bradford Central Christian High School while residing at St. Bernard Parish in Bradford. He served as assistant pastor of St. Titus Church, Titusville from 1964-1971, and of St. George Church, Erie from 1971-1975. In 1975 Fr. Cooper was named pastor of St. Charles Church, New Bethlehem until he was asked to serve as pastor of Mount Calvary Church, Erie, from 1984-1987. He additionally served as pastor of St. Joseph Church, Force, from 1989-2002 and Christ the King Church, Houtzdale and Holy Trinity Church, Ramey from 2002 until his retirement in 2005. In addition to his ministerial assignments, Father Cooper served on the Diocesan Budget and Finance Committee, the Diocesan Stewardship Committee, the Presbyteral Council, and the Board of Directors of Christ the King Manor, DuBois. His community involvement included service as president of the St. Joseph Terrace Board of Directors, and president of the Board of Directors of Full Circle Inc. of Reynoldsville, PA. He was an active Fourth Degree member of the Knights of Columbus and a member of the Erie Siebenbuerger Club Fr. Cooper is survived by one brother, Jack F. Cooper and his wife Mary Frances of Madison, OH. He is also survived by nieces and nephews: Jack F. Cooper II and his wife Carmie of Berlin, Ct., Kathy Pierce and her husband Bud III of Madison, OH, Jean Wayman and husband Pete, of Madison and Susan Bittner also of Madison, Tippi Foley and her husband Derek of Perry, OH, Janice Callens of Rochester, NY, William P. Cooper of Fairport, NY, Cecilia M. Cooper of Ashtabula, OH, and Thomas A. Cooper and his wife Marcia of Erie, PA, Amelia Mogel of Ashtabula, OH, 22 great nieces and nephews and one great-great niece. Friends may call at Brugger Funeral Homes & Crematory, LLP, 845 East 38th Street, Wednesday from 3 to 9 p.m. Further viewing at Mercy Motherhouse, 444 East Grandview Blvd., on Thursday from 10 a.m. until the time of the Funeral Mass at 11:00 a.m., with Bishop Donald W. Trautman officiating. Burial will be in Calvary Cemetery. Memorials may be made to the American Lung Association 3524 West 26th St. Erie, 16506.