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JOHN BRATH

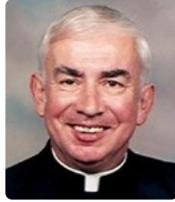
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John A. Brath

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John A. Brath

A priest for 46 years, Father John A. Brath, 76, died Wednesday, June 25 at his home in Ozark, Missouri.

Fr. Brath was born April 8, 1938, in Campbellsport, WI. He was preceded in death by his father, George Brath; his mother, Frances (Fleischman) Brath; and his sister Anna Mae Brath. Father Brath is survived by four brothers: Donald Brath (Dorothy), Karl Brath (Marylynn), Allen Brath (Jane), Ken Brath, and two sisters, Janet Melzer (Robert), and Karen Keller.

A young John Brath had joined the Air Force shortly after high school and worked as a chaplain's assistant. During that tour of duty, he met a Father O'Brien from St. Louis who introduced him to Bishop Charles Helmsing, the first bishop of the newly-formed Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau. Bishop Helmsing convinced the young Brath to go to seminary and become a priest for the Diocese, even though Brath had never been to southern Missouri. He attended Conception Abbey and Seminary in Conception, MO.

Fr. Brath was ordained a priest on May 25, 1968, in the Cathedral of St. Raymond, Joliet, IL, by Bishop Romeo Blanchette, for the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau. Fr. Brath's first assignment was as a supply priest for Immaculate Conception Parish, New Madrid, MO. He was pastor at St. William Parish, Buffalo; Sacred Heart Parish, Webb City; Our Lady of the Lake Parish, Branson; Our Lady of the Ozarks Parish, Forsyth; Our Lady of the Cove Parish, Kimberling City; St. Francis de Sales Parish, Lebanon; St. Mary Parish, Pierce City; St. Joseph the Worker Parish, Ozark; St. Mary Parish, West Plains, and Sacred Heart Parish, Thayer.

Fr. Brath served as a Catholic chaplain in the [US Air Force](#) from 1971-1974, earning the rank of Captain. He was awarded the commendation medal of First Oak Leaf Cluster for his meritorious service. Among his many other assignments, Fr. Brath served as Prefect of the Sacred Heart House of Studies, Springfield; teacher of religion in Saint Agnes High School, Springfield; Chaplain at then-St. Jane De Chantal Monastery, Springfield; Chaplain at the Ecumenical Center on the campus of Missouri Southern State University, Joplin; Chaplain at the School of the Ozarks, Point Lookout, MO, Newman Club; Diocesan Moderator for the Council of Catholic Women; and President and member of the Priests Senate.

Visitation will be held Monday, June 30, 5-7 p.m., in St.

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Joseph the Worker Church, Ozark; Vespers will be at 7 p.m. The Mass of Resurrection will be held at 11 a.m. Tuesday, July 1, in St. Joseph the Worker Church, 1796 N. State Hwy NN, in Ozark. Burial will be held in The Missouri Veterans Cemetery, Springfield, at 2 p.m., Tuesday, July 1.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Priest Retirement Fund of the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau, 601 S. Jefferson Avenue, Springfield, MO, 65806-3143, with Fr. Brath in the memo portion.



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REMEMBER

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THE GUEST BOOK IS EXPIRED

"Have thought about Father John many times on this, his birthday! I worked with him the 5 years he was at..."

-Harriet Morrison

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