

Gale's FamilyTree.com

# Rev. Richard Slavish

1933 - 2016



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MATHERVILLE - Rev. Richard Slavish, 82, Matherville, died Thursday, Feb. 18, 2016, at his home.

Mass of Christian Burial will be at 11a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 23 at St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Matherville. Burial will be at St. John's Catholic Cemetery in Viola. Visitation will be 4 to 7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 22, at Dennison Funeral Home, Viola, with a rosary recited at 7:30 p.m. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be left for St. John's Cemetery.

Richard was born July 4, 1933, in Boden, the son of John and Katherine Kovachevich Slavish. He graduated from high school and junior college at St. Bede Academy in Peru. He graduated from St. Mary of the Lake Seminary in Mundelien in June 1959 and was ordained Aug. 2, 1959.

Father Richard's first parish was Immaculate Heart of Mary in Galesburg. He also said Mass at the state hospital for 6½ years. He then served at sacred Heart in Moline and at East Moline State Hospital. He went on to serve at St. Theresa in Alexis; St. Aloysius, Wataga; St. Peter and St. Paul, Nauvoo, and Sacred Heart, Dallas City. From there he went to serve at St. Francis of Assisi, Kewanee, and St. John Vianny, Cambridge. He has served as the Illinois Police Association State Chaplain for the last 20 years. His last parish was St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Matherville. Father Richard was a member of the Knights of Columbus in Monmouth. Those left to cherish his memory are his siblings, James (Pat) Slavish of Matherville, Carmella "Dinah" (George) VanGetson of Milan, Kathleen Kilcoin of Aledo and Thomas Slavish of Matherville; six nieces; six nephews; and numerous great-nieces and great-nephews.

Richard was preceded in death by his parents.

Online condolences may be left at [www.dennisonfuneralhome.com](http://www.dennisonfuneralhome.com).

To Plant Memorial Trees in memory, please visit our [Sympathy Store](#).

Published in The Register-Mail on Feb. 21, 2016.

**Slav**  
See n

## MEMORIAL EVENTS

**FEB** Visitation  
**22** 04:00 - 07:00 PM

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**FEB** **Mass of Christian Burial**

**23** 11:00 AM

St. Anthony's Catholic Church

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Funeral services provided by  
Dennison Funeral Homes

[1601 13Th St](#)  
[Viola, IL 61486](#)  
[\(309\) 596-2121](#)

[Send Flowers](#)

 **Order by phone:** (866) 764-7853

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## MEMORIES & CONDOLENCES

Guest Book sponsored by Dennison Funeral Homes

What would you like to say about Richard?

Not sure what to say? 

Add a photo

Your Name

Your Email Address

Your Relationship 

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**12 entries**

February 15, 2021

Father Slavish was kind, understanding. He was my priest for 21 years. He married me and my husband and baptized our children. He worked with my dad at the IPA Sherwood Youth Camp, helping the underprivileged children.

**Mary ann Pedigo**

Friend

April 4, 2016

I have only known you for a short five years, but you have made an everlasting imprint on me for life. God bless you my friend

**Douglas Swift**

April 4, 2016

Such a wonderful friend,I will miss your wise counsel, your quick wit and our visits over lunch, and as the miles had separated us, the uplifting phone calls Peace be with you

**Kris Smith**

March 4, 2016

**Barbara (Walker) Billingsley**

February 24, 2016

Father Slavish, such a loving person. He was a big part in my family. He was my priest for 21 years, married me and my husband Rick, batized our children.

Father Slavish was also the priest at Sherwood Youth Camp sponsored by The Illinois Police Association, who my dad Edward Rohweder was very involved with the children that attended camp. Father Slavish helped so many children at the camp, listening to their problems, in an unbiased manner. He truly cared deeply for these children. He was my hero, my mentor. His doors were always open. He always helped and never judged. I am so lucky to grow up with him as my priest and to help guide me to who I am today. And now I have Father Slavish as my guardian angel.

Mary Ann Pedigo

**Mary Ann Pedigo**

February 24, 2016

What does one say about a rare man of the cloth. He brought many warm memories to countless people young and old. One who enjoyed life and his many journeys to always pass it on to each of us. He was a friend I could always turn to, always putting the spirit of joy and happiness back into each and everyone he met. It is an honor to have such fond memories of one who spread the word of God and friendship. Thank you! Always in my prayers.

### **Tanalee Storm**

February 23, 2016

Fr.Slavish baptized my husband, Phillip, and performed our marriage ceremony on July 24,1965. He also taught my religion class at costa High School my senior year of 1965. He was a good man and we've always had the highest respect for him,

### **terry richardson**

February 23, 2016

We will always keep Fr. Slavish in our thoughts and prayers.

Fr. Slavish baptized our son, Brian, when he was the pastor in Alexis.

He helped me through a difficult time.

Often Paul and I would run into Father and other priests at Bishops when we were at South Park Mall.

Father, thank you for all you have done for me and my family throughout the years; and keep us in your prayers.

Rest in Peace,  
**Diana (Thielbert) Long**

February 22, 2016

I had the privilege of having Father Slavish as a priest during my high school days while attending St. John's in Viola. He was a great priest in church as well as a great man outside of church! He was always there at our youth group softball games in Rock Island cheering on the St. John's/ St. Anthony's Jets..... And we usually gave him something to cheer about! I also remember seeing him in the local diner on Saturday mornings for breakfast. He would always ask "what have you boys been up to"? We had been camping the night before and he always wanted stories..... And he would also tell his own. He was a great person and friend! I am glad to have the opportunity to know him! We will truly miss him!

**Tim Bell**

February 22, 2016

For my dear friend, may you find peace in God's arms.

**Mary (Pettit) Hodorovitch**

February 22, 2016

In 1959 a young priest came to our parish, Immaculate Heart of Mary in Galesburg, IL, my home town. He was fun and enthusiastic and taught religion to my eighth grade class in a way that made God make sense to my 12 year old mind. Sometimes when Fr Lohan was gone he would throw pizza parties in the rectory. For me he always seemed to relate to young



people. We became a life long friends.

When our 1st child was born I wanted Fr. Slavish to baptize her. At that time he was at St Theresa's in Alexis, IL. That just happened to be where my mother had been baptized so we brought our daughter from TX where my husband was stationed in the Air Force so he could baptize her there. She became seriously ill so we were reassigned to San Antonio where the main AF hospital is located. During our time there he traveled twice to visit us in order to baptized 2 more of our children. He was often in contact to see how she was and I know she was always in his prayers.

Anytime I would find myself back home in Galesburg we would always reconnect and he would insist on taking me out to dinner always accompanied by our long time friend, Tim Dennis.

We've only talked on the phone or sent letters in the last several years, but I will always remember him as a wonderful man and priest who went over and above for me and my family in many ways more than I have listed here.

Rest in God's peace, dear friend. I will miss you and I will see you again.

**Mary (Pettit) Hodorovitch**

February 21, 2016

Father Slavish was a very good man to teenagers and families. He helped many of my teen friends and was a blessing to our family. During strange times in my young, Catholic life, I felt that Fr. Slavish reassured me that the Catholic Faith was where I belonged. Thank you again.

**Mary McLaughlin**

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