

# Philip DeRea

1942 - 2017



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Rev. Philip DeRea, MSC NAZARETH Reverend Philip DeRea, MSC, was born in Roseto, PA, on March 26, 1942, to Philip and Irene (Bajan) DeRea, Jr., both now deceased. Raised in Nazareth, he attended Holy Family Elementary School in Nazareth, PA, graduating in 1956. In the fall of that year, he entered Sacred Heart Mission Seminary in Geneva, IL, where he completed four years of high school and one year of college. In 1961 he entered the MSC Novitiate at Youngstown, Ohio, making first profession of vows in 1962. He continued his seminary studies for the priesthood at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Shelby, OH, making perpetual profession of vows in 1965. Fr. Phil was ordained a priest by Bishop Joseph McShea at Holy Family Parish in Nazareth on Sept. 21, 1968. He was first assigned to the Public Relations Department of the headquarters of the USA Province of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart in Aurora, IL. From 1970 - 71 Fr. Phil was chaplain at Cambridge, OH, State Hospital. Then he served as

director of development, director of communications and public relations, mission representative, and as a member of the Missionary Co-op Preaching Band until 1976. He was vocation director for the MSCs from 1976-79. Because of his childhood and lifelong friendship with Mario Andretti, he started a longtime association with other Indy car racers. This association led him to become the chaplain for the Indy Car Racing Ministries. Throughout the years, he married many of the drivers and baptized their children. Fr. Phil was also the Catholic chaplain for the Mattioli Family at Pocono International Raceway. From 1979 - 1980 Fr. Phil was assigned to the MSC Colombian Mission. Following that assignment, he ministered as hospital chaplain at Sacred Heart Hospital in Allentown, PA, until 1981. He then established the Washington, DC, Office of the Missionary Vehicle Assn., Inc. (MIVA), an organization dedicated to providing vehicles for Catholic missionaries working in foreign countries. From 2003-2007 Fr. Phil worked at the MSC Church in Piazza Navona in Rome, Italy. He then returned to Aurora, IL, to again work as development director for the MSCs. In 1974, he founded the Viennese Ball in the Lehigh Valley which lasted for 39 years. In February 2014, after a long hospitalization, due to illness, he resided at the Manor Care Nursing Home in Bethlehem, PA, until his unexpected death on June 21, 2017. Fr. Phil is survived by his sister, Eileen, and her husband, Sal LoCicero; brothers, Steven and his wife, Sylvia, and John and his wife, Gail. Also surviving are nephews, Scott and Dr. Michael LoCicero, and nieces, Andria Helfrich, Lori Kolb, and four great-nephews. Services will be Tuesday, June 27, 2017 at 10:30 a.m. in the Joseph F. Reichel Funeral Home Inc., 220 Washington Park, Nazareth, PA 18064. followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at 11 a.m. in Holy Family Catholic Church, 410 W. Center Street, Nazareth, PA 18064. Burial will follow in Holy Family Cemetery, Nazareth. Calling hours will be Monday from 5 to 8 p.m. and Tuesday from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. in the funeral home. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Sacred Heart Foundation in c/o Fr. Richard Kennedy, MSC, Sacred Heart Villa, 3300 Station Ave., Center Valley, PA

18034. Joseph Reichel Funeral Home 220 Washington Park Nazareth, PA  
18064-2634 (610) 759-0160

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Published in The Express Times from Jun. 24 to Jun. 25, 2017.

## MEMORIAL EVENTS

**JUN** Calling hours

**26** 5:00 - 8:00 PM

[Joseph Reichel Funeral Service](#)

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**JUN** Calling hours

**27** 9:30 - 10:30 AM

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**JUN** Service

**27** 10:30 AM

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**JUN** **Mass of Christian Burial**

**27** 11:00 AM

[Holy Family Catholic Church](#)

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Joseph Reichel Funeral Service

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### 24 entries

June 20, 2019

Dr.Phil was one of a kind! Once he met you, he would always remember your name!

June 19, 2019

Miss him everyday. He made my life so much better.

**Joanne Pinette**

Friend

June 21, 2018

Thinking of you today the day you left us as I think of you everyday. You were one of my best friends my confidante and my spiritual advisor and

my brother from another mother. Miss you and prayer for you everyday my only consolation is that you and Lionel are together now.

**Joanne Pinette**

Friend

October 10, 2017

I met Fr. Phil on a flight to Washington D.C. one day and we became instance friends. He was there for me during difficult times. I hadn't seen him in quite some time but his honesty and compassion will be missed. Rest in Peace my friend

**Patrick Fitzmorris**

Friend

July 27, 2017

**Lori Zaharek**

Acquaintance

July 26, 2017

Fr Phil lived at our house when he 1st arrived in Cambridge, I was 12, going on 22. As we cooked some of his famous recipes together, he took advantage of having my full attention & practiced ALL his skills learned during his priesthood. I admit I can still hear his words, see him roll his eyes over his glasses at me. I found him several years ago online. I am thankful I had the opportunity to express my thanks to him, let him know all those words were put to good use after all. We had planned on getting

together, he was going to share some of his recipes too. I am so sad to know that I will never get to sit down with him 1 last time, face to face & pound out answers to life's mysteries. Rest in Peace my dear treasured friend. Condolences to his family & friends.

**sue Selock-Tysinger**

July 1, 2017

Father Phil was a very caring, funny, and generous man. He will stay with us in good memories and in loving spirit. Our condolences to his family - may he rest in peace.

**Jen and Jeff Mathews**

June 27, 2017

Well done, good and faithful servant! Enter into the kingdom prepared for you from the beginning of time.

June 27, 2017

Loved Fr Phil a lot. RIP my friend.

**Fr Mike Novick**

June 26, 2017

I first met Father Phil at the now defunct Nazareth Speedway during a Indy Car race. I was hanging out with his brother, John at his camper in the infield--John, and my wife Debbie went to high school together, yes

John, we know you are younger! When I shook his hand, I felt a strong warmth, a caring smile, and a attention to detail. We talked for awhile, then he was gone. I would always ask John "how's Father Phil doing?" He told mw he was in Rome doing God's work. A couple of years later, Father Phil was back at the race track--he saw me, walked right up and said "hi Ron, how are you?" I haven't seen him for at least two years, and he remembered my name--WHO does that? Father Phil does that! He was truly one of a kind, he was loved by me, and by so many others. We are blessed to have him, for he gave to so many. Our deepest condolences to his family

### **Ron Schaffer**

June 25, 2017

Father Phil was always gracious to me and my family wherever we attended a race from Phoenix, Milwaukee, or Cleveland. I first met him when he was in Aurora with the MSC's. A great friend to many and giver to many. He always took my phone calls with a glad to hear from you voice. May he rest in peace.

### **Ron Esposito**

June 25, 2017

The size of your heart was unmeasureable, your smile contagious and your Spirituality was larger than life. God bless you always Padre, keep



watching us from above. I will always treasure the good memories.

**Marco Primelli**

June 25, 2017

Father Phil was a long, and faithful friend to my mother Inez O'Connell Larichiuta, having bonded when he was at Sacred Heart Hospital in Allentown. He was always gracious, and kind. Condolences to the family he left behind

June 25, 2017

**William Powell**

June 25, 2017

Father Phil was an amazing and caring person.

**Barbara Powell**

June 24, 2017

I was so sad to hear of Father Phil's passing. He was a childhood friend. He officiated my Daughters wedding danced at the reception. He answered God's calling and we are all better for that..

His missionary work was important to him and all he helped.

RIP MY friend..

**Marie Romano**

June 24, 2017

I feel so bad that I didn't get to PA. and see Fr. Phil before he passed away. I have so many memories of him, he was such a wonderful person. I know he is happy in heaven visiting with everyone with that wonderful smile!

**Doug Austin**

June 24, 2017

My friend and neighbor. Butchie.

**Joan Reilly**

June 24, 2017

To Father Phil's family:

Father Phil was a close and dear friend demonstrating compassion, kindness and support to anyone who was lucky enough to meet him. My heart is heavy with mixed emotions - sadness at his passing because the world has lost a great person. But also a sense of relief and gratefulness to God - knowing that he is no longer frustrated by the limitations of his illness. Prayers and healing thoughts to you and may he rest in God's peace.

June 24, 2017

Father Phil was one of a kind. He was a loving compassionate man and the best friend anyone could ever have. He was a brother to me and my

husband Lionel. Glad I got to spend so much time with you during my lifetime. Rest In Peace. My condolences to his family

**Joanne Pinette**

June 24, 2017

To The Family of Father Phil,

Father Phil was a wonderful man. He touched so many hearts and souls. He is in Gods hands now.

John and Mary Bryant

**Mary Bryant**

June 24, 2017

Thank you Father for all your help and guidance throughout the years.

**Bob and Shirley Mugione**

June 24, 2017

To Father Phil's Family -

We offer our sincerest sympathy in the loss of such a wonderful person. We will always remember his bright smile and prayerful personality. May Father Phil rest peacefully now in God's loving hands.

With Our Prayers,

Anthony Basso and Family

**Linda Basso**

June 24, 2017

Dear Eileen: Phil was a treasured friend. He taught me a lot as he was a great storyteller. May time heal all wounds brought by losing Phil.

Peace,

Charles R. Levine,MD

**Chas Levine**

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