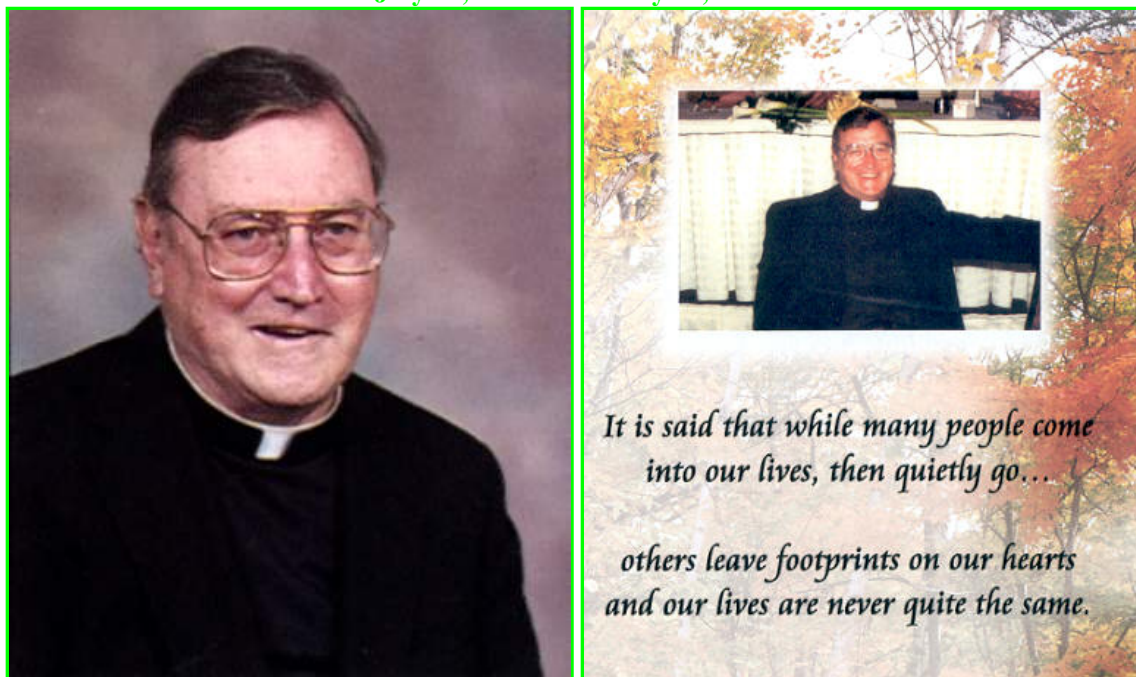


Back to St. Stephen Parish On To St. Stephen School

In Loving Memory of

Reverend Monsignor Joseph F. O'Connell

July 17, 1930 - February 29, 2008





"Death is nothing at all. It does not count. I have only slipped away into the next room. Nothing has happened. Everything remains exactly as it was. I am I, and you are you, and the old life that we lived so fondly together is untouched, unchanged. Whatever we were to each other, that we are still. Call me by the old familiar name, Joe. Speak of me in the easy way which you always used. Put no difference into your tone. Wear no forced air of solemnity or sorrow. Laugh as we always laughed at the little jokes that we enjoyed together. Play, smile, think of me, pray for me. Let my name be ever the household word that it always was. Let it be spoken without an effort, without the ghost of a shadow upon it. Life means all that it ever meant. It is the same as it ever was. There is absolute and unbroken continuity. Why should I be out of mind because I am out of sight? I am but waiting for you, for an interval, somewhere very near, just round the corner. All is well."

Rev. Monsignor Joseph F. O'Connell, a priest of the Camden diocese, went home to the Lord on February 29, 2008; age 77 years. Dear brother of Charles J. O'Connell.

Born on July 17, 1930 in East Orange, NJ; Msgr. O'Connell was a graduate of St. Jerome's in Ontario Canada, the Darlington Theological Institute in Darlington, NJ and of St. Maur's Seminary in South Union, KY. He was ordained on May 16, 1964 at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Camden, NJ by Most Rev. Celestine J. Damiano, and served as Parochial Vicar from 1964 to 1976 at St. Martin de Porres in Hammonton, St. Ann in Wildwood, St. Vincent Palotti in Haddon Township and St. Mary in Gloucester. From 1976 to 1981, Msgr. served as Pastor of St. James Parish in Penns Grove. In 1981, he was named Pastor of St. Stephen's Parish in Pennsauken, where he would serve until his transfer to St. Charles Borromeo Parish in Sicklerville in 1991. On June 17, 2002; Msgr. O'Connell retired from St. Charles Borromeo Parish. During his retirement, he served as a Temporary Administrator to St. Stephens Parish in Pennsauken. During his 38 years as an active priest, Msgr. O'Connell served many appointments, including faculty positions at St. Joseph's and Wildwood Catholic High Schools, Cape May County Area CYO and Regional Vocation Director, as well as many council and commission positions. On February 15, 1989, he was appointed Prelate of Honor by Pope John Paul II.



Back to St. Stephen Parish On To St. Stephen School