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Rev. Donald Francis Joseph Scales

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Obituary

SCALES, Rev. Donald Francis Joseph, 80, of the Order of Saint Benedict (OSB), departed this life on December 12, 2008, at Mary, Mother of the Church Abbey in Richmond. He entered Belmont Abbey in North Carolina as a novice in 1948, and attended Belmont Abbey Seminary, being ordained a priest at Belmont Abbey on June 17, 1955. Fr. Donald then was sent to Benedictine High School in Richmond, where he worked for two years and again from 1960-61, before being sent back to Belmont Abbey. After many different assignments and obtaining a Masters' Degree in Guidance and Counseling, Fr. Donald returned to Richmond for the final time in 1980. He had since remained as a monk, serving at Benedictine as a religion teacher until his retirement and as a board member until his death. He served first as associate pastor and then as pastor of St. Benedict Catholic Church, Richmond until 1999. For many years and until his last days, he also served as the beloved Prior of his monastery. Never without a cigar or a smile, Fr. Donald baptized, served first communions, heard confessions, officiated weddings, offered last rites, and given the eulogies of countless numbers of Christians. Through his loving and comforting care, Fr. Donald provided years of spiritual guidance and friendship to anyone he met. Fr. Donald is survived by his monastic brothers; two sisters-in-law, Carol Scales and Martha Scales; his nieces and nephews, Sandra Scales-Siwiek, Cecile Matty, Eric Scales, Maryanne "Sissy" Thomas, Hank Thomas, Randy Thomas, and Paul Thomas; and one cousin, William Colliton. His body will be received in St. Benedict Catholic Church, 300 N. Sheppard St., at 5 p.m. Tuesday, with visitation following until 7 p.m., when a Vigil Mass will be celebrated by The Most Rev. Francis X. DiLorenzo, Bishop of The Catholic Diocese of Richmond. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated 10 a.m. Wednesday at Mary, Mother of the Church Abbey, with burial to follow in the Monastery Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Fr. Donald Memorial Fund at Mary, Mother of the Church Abbey, 12829 River Rd., Richmond, Va. 23238-7206.

This obituary was originally published in the Richmond Times-Dispatch.

Guest Book

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Sorry for the loss, but, as we have faith then we know Fr. Donald is in a better place. He was my teacher at BHS for years and always was interested in the Cadet's..encouraging us to behave. He was a great man.

Robert Morley Jr (82)

January 06, 2009 | Richmond, VA



Fr. Donald enriched all of us who were so fortunate to have known him. He truly was a servant of the Lord. We are so blessed to have had his love and service.

Mary Ann Essid-Ryan

December 18, 2008 | VA



Father Donald was a gentle, generous man. I had the privledge of knowing him during my time at Belmont Abbey (1965-1969) and visited him in Richmond after that. God bless him and receive him.

F. Kevin Murphy

December 16, 2008 | Frederick, MD



Fr Donald was truly a man of God. He made a lasting impression on all meet him. I know that he is with God now and will greatly be missed.

Teresa Bliley Waters

December 17, 2008 | Richmond, VA



I fondly remember Fr. Donald, while at student at both Benedictine and Belmont Abbey College. His stature created a strong presence and he genuinely cared about people. All of that and a character, too!

Gene Dixon

December 16, 2008 | Bloomfield Hills, MI



I am very sad to hear of the loss of Father Donald. I never met Father Donald but I really appreciate all the good work that he did. I will miss him. God bless you

Brian McLaughlin

December 16, 2008 | Richmond, VA



Today, Jimmy and I went to a Funeral at St. Benedict's and thought for sure that Fr. Donald would be doing the Mass. We were prepared to hear his homily....Forgive, Forgive, Forgive and Forgive.....Tell the Story! We will truly miss you,

Our thoughts and prayers are with you in your time of grief. May your memories bring you comfort.

Mary Ames

December 16, 2008 | Kannapolis

Father Donald. It was a gift and a pleasure to have know you for so many years. Rest in Peace.

Madeline McKenna

December 16, 2008 | Richmnd, VA



Father Donald was one of my favorite priests at St. Benedict's Church. He knew my older brothers and my parents, and he always called me "Little Sister" whenever he administered Communion or when I went to him for Confession. I will miss his homilies which always included humor as well as sincere messages of faith and love. Rest in peace, Father Donald-you will be missed by all.

Shannon Carlton

December 16, 2008

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