

## ANTHONY SPANO OBITUARY

<https://obits.nj.com/us/obituaries/starledger/name/anthony-spano-obituary?id=13175795>

Priest with Salesian Order, president of Don Bosco Prep Rev. Anthony Spano, SDB, 93, of Ramsey died on Dec. 18, 2008. Public visitation will be held on Saturday, Dec. 20, 2008, from 5 to 8 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 21, from 1 to 5 p.m. at the Mary Help of Christians Chapel at

Don Bosco  
Preparatory High  
School, Ramsey,  
followed by a Mass at  
5 p.m. Interment will  
be held on Monday,  
Dec. 22, at 10 a.m. at  
the Salesian Cemetery  
in Goshen, N.Y.  
Funeral arrangements  
are being handled by  
the Van Emburgh-  
Sneider-Pernice  
Funeral Home, 109  
Darlington Ave.,  
Ramsey, N.J., (201)  
327-0030. Please send  
tributes, condolences

and memories at  
[www.vanemburghsneider.com](http://www.vanemburghsneider.com). Father Anthony was born in New York City and grew up in the East Village. He was drawn to The Church of Mary Help of Christians on East 12th Street, New York City. He became an altar boy and got involved in the parish activities. The Church of Mary Help of Christians was a Salesian parish run by the order of priests

and brothers founded by Saint John Bosco, the great modern educator. Anthony was attracted to the order because of its youth oriented work and decided to join it. At age 14, Anthony left the city and entered their junior seminary in Newton, Sussex County, N.J. He completed his high school studies there and entered into his one year novitiate after graduation. He

made his final vows in the Salesian Order on Sept. 1, 1933. After that, Anthony prepared for the priesthood while he earned his bachelor's degree in philosophy. Typically, upon their college graduation, the young seminarians were sent out "into the field" for two-year internships as practical training, but Anthony was asked to remain at the seminary and teach

the young "aspirants"  
to the priesthood.  
Upon completion of  
his two-year "practical  
training", he then  
began a four-year  
period of theological  
studies. His  
theological studies  
were taken in the  
States and Father  
returned to Don Bosco  
Seminary in Newton,  
N.J., where a theology  
department was  
temporarily set up to  
meet the needs. He  
completed his four

years of theological studies there and was ordained a priest on July 4, 1943. Father Anthony was valued as a serious and excellent student and, because of this, he was selected to take care of and teach young seminarians at Don Bosco Seminary in Newton, where he remained for several additional years.

While teaching there, he was asked to take some post-graduate

courses in chemistry,  
and later, in biology at  
Fordham University.  
Upon completing  
these studies, he was  
able to add two more  
degrees to his name: a  
master's in chemistry  
and a doctorate in  
biology. All in all,  
Father Anthony  
remained at Don  
Bosco Seminary in  
Newton, from age 14  
to age 58. At one  
reunion ceremony for  
the Newton-based  
seminary, he was



presented with a plaque for the priest who resided there the longest, and that was for 44 years. In 1976 he received special orders from the Salesian Provincial Office, wherein he was directed to go to Don Bosco Preparatory High School in Ramsey, N.J., to become the director/president of the school. Even though he felt the promotion was "too much too

late" (Father was 66 years old at the time), he accepted and took on the mantle of directing Don Bosco Prep from 1976 to 1981. His tenure at Don Bosco was cut short by a serious heart attack that he suffered in 1981. After he recovered, Father returned to the Salesian Provincial Residence in New Rochelle, where he became the financial administrator, taking

care of management and finances of the Provincial House and its residents. Father worked in this capacity for almost 20 years until it was decided that the Provincial House would be renovated. Father Anthony was then invited by Father Steven Shafran, director/president of Don Bosco Preparatory High School, to return to help him administer

the development efforts at the school. He gladly accepted. From the year 2000, Father Anthony has continued to work at Don Bosco Prep, as a member of the Alumni/Development office. He also served as the chaplain for the Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace. He drove to Saddle River every morning and celebrated Holy Mass at 8 a.m. at Villa Marie Claire for the retired

sisters and lay persons residing there. Father Anthony was the dear brother-in-law of Rose Spano, and the uncle of John and his wife, Marge Dellecato, Michael and his wife, Florence Dellecato, Cathy Cicerello, Lucy and Patricia D'Amico, Richard and his wife, Janet Spano, and Joe and his wife, Carol Spano. He is also survived by members of his Salesian

community.

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