

The Rev. Angelo Bertrand LeVasseur, 56

PORTLAND — The Rev. Angelo Bertrand LeVasseur, 56, Catholic priest of the Diocese of Portland, died Sunday, May 31, 2009, at the Hospice House in Auburn.

Father Angelo was born Jan. 14, 1953, the son of Irene and Lewis LeVasseur, in Grand Isle, where he was raised.

Father Angelo attended Van Buren District High School, and the University of Maine at Fort Kent where he studied English, and later taught in the Van Buren and Mars Hill school districts.

He studied Philosophy and Theology at St. Mary's Seminary & University, in Baltimore, Md., where he received a Master of Divinity. While at St. Mary's, Angelo ministered to the sick and dying at Johns Hopkins University Hospital. While a seminarian, Father Angelo was Deacon at St. Theresa of the Infant Jesus Parish in Mexico. Father Angelo also studied at Georgetown University, in Washington, D.C.

On July 31, 1983, Father Angelo was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Portland at St. Gerard Church of Notre Dame du Mont Carmel Parish, in Grand Isle, by the Most Rev. Edward C. O'Leary. His first assignment was serving as Parochial Vicar at St. Andre's Parish in Biddeford. He then became a chaplain at Bowdoin College, in Brunswick, and Bates College, in Lewiston, for several years, while doing parish ministry at St. Charles Borromeo Church in Brunswick, and St. Katherine Drexel Church in South Harpswell, Bailey's Island. While at Bowdoin, Angelo was instrumental in bringing students to Appalachia to help the poor in Kentucky.

Father Angelo then became pastor of St. Luce Catholic Church, one of the oldest churches in the St. John Valley region and in the State of Maine, and Director of the Christian Life Center in Frenchville. His next assignment was at Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Church, in Sabattus, at St. Francis Mission, in Greene, and St. Ambrose Church in Richmond. He was then assigned to what is now known as Holy Savior Parish, serving the communities of Rumford, Mexico, Dixfield, Bethel, and Roxbury Pond. He was responsible for St. John's School of the Parish of the Holy Savior.



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Father Angelo was a lover of nature having skied throughout Europe; he pursued the arts, and was a follower of Henry David Thoreau. One of his favorite quotes by Thoreau is, "I went to the woods because I wished to live deliberately, to front only the essential facts of life, and see if I could learn what it had to teach, and not, when I came to die, discover that I had not lived."

Surviving are three brothers, Mathieu LeVasseur and wife Patricia of Grand Isle, Edward LeVasseur and wife Jacqueline of Madawaska, and Joel LeVasseur of Damariscotta; a niece, Louise Papka and husband Mark, and three nephews, Mario LeVasseur and wife Inna, Michael LeVasseur, and Wayne LeVasseur and wife Monique. Father Angelo is predeceased by his mother and father, Irene and Lewis, and Woody.

Reception of the Body will be Wednesday, June 3, at 4 p.m. at St. Athanasius & St. John Church of Holy Savior Parish, 126 Maine Ave., Rumford, with Father Lionel Chouinard as Presider and Homilist, followed by a vigil/wake until 8 p.m. A wake will also be on Thursday, June 4, from 9 to 10:45 a.m. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated 11 a.m. Thursday, June 4, with The Most Rev. Richard J. Malone as Principal Celebrant, and Fr. Robert Vaillancourt as the Homilist. Another Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated 10 a.m. Friday, June 5, at St. Gerard Church of Notre Dame du Mont Carmel Parish, Grand Isle, with Father Jean-Paul Labrie as Principal Celebrant and Homilist. Interment will be in the family plot at St. Gerard's Cemetery in Grand Isle. Relatives and friends may pay tribute to Father Angelo at www.mem.com. Arrangements are under the care of S.G. Thibault Funeral Home & Cremation Services, 250 Penobscot St., Rumford, 364-4366, www.dignitymemorial.com.

In memory of Father Angelo, donations may be made to:

The Hospice House of
Androscoggin Home Care & Hospice
236 Stetson Rd.
Auburn, Maine 04210
or the Holy Savior Columbarium
Fund 126 Maine Ave.
Rumford, Maine 04276