



Rev Fr Carl Anthony Fisher

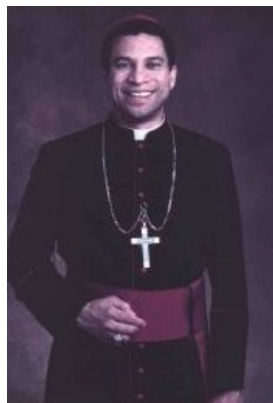


Photo added by Amber Palermo

BIRTH 24 Nov 1945
Pascagoula, Jackson County, Mississippi, USA

DEATH 2 Sep 1993 (aged 47)
Lakewood, Los Angeles County, California, USA

BURIAL Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels
Los Angeles, Los Angeles County, California, USA

PLOT Bishop's Crypt

MEMORIAL ID 5830397



Added by Eman Bonnici

Most Reverend Carl Anthony Fisher - Auxiliary Bishop of Los Angeles

~

Carl was a Bishop in California and is buried in LA. Memorial # 5830397. This memorial was added in this Cemetery as most of his relatives are buried here.

Most Rev. Carl Anthony Fisher, SSJ

CARL FISHER PRAISED IN MULTIETHNIC MASS

Cardinal Roger Mahony described the life and ministry of Bishop Carl A. Fisher as "an exquisite meteor shower - a shower of light, of splendor, and of dazzling colors."

That light, splendor and color was reflected Wednesday during the funeral Mass for Fisher, the first and only African-American Roman Catholic bishop in the western United States.

It was reflected in the Africa-inspired Kente cloth that draped the liturgy tables at St. Vibiana Cathedral, that hung around the necks of the members of the 100-voice choir, that adorned Fisher's body in the form of a chasuble.

It was reflected in the multicultural nature of the ceremony - in the prayers recited in Spanish, Italian, Chinese and other languages; in the brown, black and white faces of the audience that overflowed the 1,300-person capacity edifice; in the merging of traditional Catholic ceremony and spirited African-American gospel singing.

And it was reflected in the glowing remarks from fellow priests, parish members and people who had met him:

"He was definitely blessed, and we were blessed to have gotten to know him," said Vincent Alexander, a member of Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Church in Los Angeles. "He was special to me because he was the first black



Added by Eman Bonnici

priest I ever met," said Gwen Hueston of Simi Valley. "He'll be missed." "I'm happy he isn't suffering any more," said Sister Martin Marie, of Holy Family School in Wilmington. "We know that he'll still be working with us in spirit." "Fisher is a hard act to follow," said the Rev. Michael Ume of St. Genevieve Catholic Church in Van Nuys. "It will be very difficult to find someone to take his place." After the two-hour funeral, Fisher was buried at Calvary Cemetery in Los Angeles next to a plot reserved for Cardinal Mahony. People at the graveside ceremony Wednesday seemed most impressed by the fact that Fisher had planned the entire funeral in the weeks before his death, from the colors to the music to the scripture readings and prayers. "He requested a mass choir of three choirs - Holy Name of Jesus, St. Brigid and Transfiguration churches," said Tonette Reyes, of St. Brigid. Each of these Catholic parishes are predominantly African-American. "We lost a great leader, especially in the black community," Reyes continued. "He opened a lot of doors for us, and he will be remembered."

Fisher finally succumbed to a two-year battle with colon cancer last Thursday. A native of Pascagoula, Miss., he was ordained a priest in 1973 and became an auxiliary bishop in the Los Angeles Diocese in 1987. One of 12 African-American bishops in the nation, Fisher was head of the San Pedro Pastoral Region, which comprises parishes in Long Beach and other South Bay cities. He lived and died at his home on the grounds of St. Pancratius Church in Lakewood.

On Aug. 19, Fisher sent a farewell letter to "My Dearest Loved Ones," thanking people for their support. Andriane Casarez of Lakewood received a copy. Fisher "lived life to the full," Casarez said. She first met him in Rome two years ago, when Cardinal Mahony was ordained. "I sat right next to him and thought - 'Oh-oh this is a priest,'" she said, describing her feelings of intimidation. As it turned out, "he was a very down-to-earth person." After the ordination ceremony, Fisher, Casarez and her husband Eleo went out for ice cream. From that point on, Fisher became like a member of the family. "He spent Thanksgiving and Easter with us," said Casarez, who lives near St. Pancratius. "I made him an Easter basket, and he said it was the first Easter basket he had received since he was 7 years old."

About 50 members of Fisher's family filled the front pews of St. Vibiana Cathedral and five limousines en route to the graveside service at Calvary Cemetery, a spokesman said. In addition to his mother Evelyn Grant Fisher, Fisher is survived by six brothers: Peter Jr., Earl, Joseph, Lester, Paul and Timothy, and four sisters: Ann Fisher, Sister Alexis Fisher, Violet Fisher Lett and Antoinette Fisher White. Preceding Carl in death was his Father Peter William Fisher Sr. and a Brother Eugene Fisher.

A native of Pascagoula, Miss., Fisher was one of 12 children. He studied for the priesthood at St. Joseph's Seminary and Oblate College, both in

Washington, D.C. He was pastor of the country's oldest black Catholic church, Baltimore's St. Francis Xavier parish, when Pope John Paul II appointed him auxiliary to the Archbishop of Los Angeles.

Instead of being buried in the traditional Mass vestment, Fisher had asked to be buried in a violet chasuble fronted with African kinte cloth. To Fisher, violet denoted suffering and its redemptive value; the multicolored kinte cloth represented the suffering African-Americans endured during slavery and from racism and discrimination in modern days.

Another kinte cloth was draped over the open coffin at St. Pancratius, and a rosary was tucked in Fisher's hands. Members of the Knights of Peter Claver and the Knights of Columbus, in plumed hats and polished swords, stood at attention as honor guards over the bishop's body "He looks beautiful and so peaceful," said Heffernan, who lives in Manhattan Beach. But, she added, "I miss not seeing those green eyes."

Family Members

Parents



Peter William Fisher
1917–1983



Evelyn Gertrude *Grant* Fisher
1919–1999

Siblings



Eugene R Fisher
1942–1970



Carl Anthony Fisher
1945–1993

Created by: Dwain Miller

Added: 7 Oct 2001

Find a Grave Memorial ID: **5830397**

SPONSORED BY Amber Palermo

Find a Grave, database and images

(<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/5830397/carl-anthony-fisher>: accessed 15 March 2023), memorial page for Rev Fr Carl Anthony Fisher (24 Nov 1945–2 Sep 1993), Find a Grave Memorial ID 5830397, citing Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels, Los Angeles, Los Angeles County, California, USA; Maintained by Dwain Miller (contributor 31638970).