

Obituaries ~ February 19, 2019

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Let us keep the souls and the families of the faithful departed in our prayers:

Rev. Msgr. James C. Lara

Monsignor James Carreras Lara, 84, passed away on Thursday, February 14, 2019, from a sudden heart attack while in the hospital near his home in Spain. Monsignor “Jaime” Lara was ordained for the Diocese of Toledo, Spain, where he worked for two years before being sent as a “missionary priest” to the rapidly-growing Diocese of St. Augustine in 1959. There, he was appointed as Associate Pastor of St. Paul Parish, Jacksonville Beach, while also teaching at nearby Bishop Kenny High School. He subsequently served the parish communities of Christ the King, Jacksonville Beach and Assumption, Jacksonville as Associate Pastor and in 1967, was appointed Pastor of Blessed Trinity Parish, Jacksonville.

In 1968, Monsignor Lara was assigned to Blessed Sacrament Parish, Tampa, in what was the newly-established Diocese of St. Petersburg, where he would soon be incardinated. He would remain at Blessed Sacrament for one year before being transferred to the developing community of Brandon, faithfully serving as Pastor of Nativity Parish for 30 years until his retirement on July 1, 1999. It was during those three decades that the parish witnessed exponential growth. In August 1999, at the request of Bishop Robert Lynch, Pope St. John Paul II bestowed the honorary title of “Monsignor” upon Lara and ten other priests of the diocese.

A Funeral Mass was held earlier today, February 15, 2019, at San Andres Apostol Church in Miguel Esteban, Toledo, Spain. Monsignor Lara will be buried nearby in Miguel Esteban.

Locally, a Memorial Mass will be held on **Saturday, February 23, 2019, 11:00 a.m.** at Nativity Catholic Church, 705 E. Brandon Boulevard, Brandon, FL 33511. Clergy wishing to vest are invited to bring an alb and white stole.