



Fr. William A. Rice

January 09, 1933 - August 28, 2023

Fr. William A. Rice, 90, of Fryburg, passed away peacefully on August 28, 2023 at Penn Highlands DuBois Hospital.

Bill was born on Rosalie Farm, Coraopolis, PA on January 9, 1933 to the late Gordon J. Rice Sr. and Anna L. (Bagrowski) Rice.

After graduating from Immaculate Conception High School, Fr. Bill served in the Army during the Korean Conflict. Following his honorable discharge, he attended both Duquesne and St. Bonaventure Universities before entering the seminary. After his ordination on May 23, 1963, Fr. Bill taught at DuBois Central Catholic. He later was pastor at St. Bonaventure's Parish in Grampion, St. Mark's Parish in Emporium, and St. Adalbert's Parish in Farrell. Fr. Bill retired from public ministry in 2003 and relocated to Fryburg, where he enjoyed visits from family and friends.

Bill is survived by two sisters; Arlene Speerbrecher of Ohio and Jeanne (Fran) Paff of New York; sister-in-law, Dorothy Rice of Clarion. Fr. Bill is also survived by numerous nieces and nephews.

Bill was preceded in death by his parents, sister, Dolores Gross and brother, Gordon J. Rice Jr. as well as nephews, William G. Rice and Joseph G. Rice.

Friends and family will be received from 10:00 am to 11:00 am on Friday, September 1, 2023 at St. Michael's Church: 18765 Rt. 208 Fryburg, PA 16326. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 11:00 am with Rev. Michael Polinek presiding. Interment will follow at Immaculate Conception Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to St. Michael's Parish: 18765 Rt. 208 Fryburg, PA 16326.

Friends and family may send online condolences, memorials, and obtain additional information by visiting www.goblefh.net.

Cemetery



IMMACULATE
CONCEPTION CEMETERY

South 2nd Avenue,
Clarion, PA 16214

Events



MASS OF CHRISTIAN
BURIAL
11:00 AM

St. Michael's Church
18765 Route 208,
Fryburg, PA 16326



VISITATION
10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

St. Michael's Church
18765 Route 208,
Fryburg, PA 16326

Tribute Wall

R

Ralph DeCecco

To the family of Fr. Bill Rice; My name is Deacon Ralph DeCecco. My condolences to you and his family. I had the pleasure of serving with Fr. Bill at the Albion prison, and we quickly became friends sharing in this ministry. He was a great priest to the incarcerated men there, with a heart as big as his smile. The men shared with me how comfortable he made them feel when he would hear their confessions. He served on several of their four day retreats and inspired the men to try to change their lives and live as Christ had commanded them. I am sorry that I did not hear of his death until today. He was truly a friend I admired, and an inspiration to many. I will remember him in my Masses and nightly prayers. May he rest in God's Peace, Joy, and Love. My personal email address is deacondececco@aol.com.

T

Teresa Haws

On Thursday April 17, 2015, I had an uncle C. Raymond Selker 92 years old who was near death's door and was a patient in the Clarion Hospital. Being that we live in Florida, I wanted my uncle to have the Last Rites according to the Roman Catholic Church, called Extreme Unction. I was thinking who could do this for my dear Uncle? Then I remembered Fr. Rice who was not in the best of health himself. I called him at his home and he said well " I will try to get there today but it will probably be tomorrow.... I was afraid that my Uncle wouldn't make it tomorrow...so I prayed.... The next day I got a phone call from Fr Rice and he said that he was able to make it yesterday, Thursday. Then I found out that my uncle had died a few hours later in the P.M. of Thursday April 17, 2015 ! I was so totally grateful to Almighty God for this blessed gift given to my Uncle ! And of course for Fr Rice who traveled to Clarion in the cold still winterey weather and administered the Holy Sacrament of Extreme Unction to him. Father Rice , thank you again for your Priestly devotion to saving souls!!! Eternal Rest grant unto him Oh Lord, and let Perpetual Light shine upon him..... May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace Amen!🙏🙏🙏. Mrs. Teresa Haws , Deltona, Florida

J

James Champion

Although I am not of the Catholic Church Father Rice and I were roommates at the Clarion Hospital a while back. We got to chatting about our faith and walk with the Lord. Thru our talks we became good friends and I know Father Rice was a true Christian and is now in the presence of the Lord. When I get to Heaven I am certainly going to Look for Father Rice.

C

Carol Puhl

Fr William A Rice and I taught at Dubois Central Catholic High School 1964-67. We were both serious about our work and we always found a few minutes to discuss issues of the day. He served the Dubois Central convent as chaplain, where I was a Sister of Mercy during those three years. He was a very good man and a good priest, and a good example for us all. Dr Carol A Puhl, Stellenbosch, South Africa.

M

Michael and Tami Wester

Father Rice is my all time favorite priest. I loved to talk about the bible and many other things with him for hours. I will miss his knowledge, wisdom, and sharing coffee time. We, my wife and I will truly miss his smile.



"Material_candle_blue_thumbnail"
was lit in memory of Fr. William A. Rice

❤ Light a candle

Show your support by giving a symbol of remembrance

A

A Memorial Tree was planted for Fr. William A. Rice

We are deeply sorry for your loss ~ Goble Funeral Home & Crematory
