



1947 — *Reverend Robert J. Hoeffner* — 2024

Reverend Robert J. Hoeffner

August 20, 1947 — January 28, 2024

Palm Bay, Florida

Reverend Robert J. Hoeffner

Reverend Robert (Bob) Hoeffner (76) of Palm Bay passed away on January 28, 2024. Father Bob lived his entire life serving God through his vocation as a priest and ministering to others. As a Catholic priest, he positively affected the physical and spiritual lives of many people of all walks of life, not only living in Central and South Florida but also across the nation. Father Bob guided many to a better life by walking with them into a closer relationship with Jesus Christ. Whether it was through the energy Father Bob infused into his homilies, the Sacraments he celebrated and shared, or the calm counsel of his caring voice, many were blessed to encounter Christ and receive the love of God through him.

Father Bob was born in Queens, NY and lived in Cohocton, NY and Ft. Pierce, FL. The family had two farms and traveled to Cohocton in the summer to help with the farm there. He went to St. Anastasia Catholic grade school. At age 14, Bob attended St. John Vianney Seminary in Miami and chose a life in the priesthood upon completion of his studies at St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary in Boynton Beach.

He served as a Catholic priest for over 50 years. His first assignment was Good Shepherd Parish in Orlando, followed by a teaching assignment at Bishop Moore Catholic High School. He subsequently served as Director of the San Pedro Spiritual Development Center and Diocesan Director of Liturgy and Ecumenism. During that time, he also celebrated mass on television and became known as the “television priest.” For 28 years, his masses were enjoyed on television channels throughout five dioceses in Florida.

In 1987, Father Bob was given a pasture in an area of southeast Orlando and instructed by the Bishop to establish a new parish, St. Isaac Jogues. Father Bob was bi-lingual and used those skills to build a thriving multicultural parish serving the needs of a very diverse community. He established the first trilingual parish council that equally

represented the Anglo, Hispanic and Filipino communities and began a chapter of the St. Vincent de Paul Society to serve the needs of the poor.

In 1999 he was transferred to St. Joseph's Parish in Palm Bay. At St. Joseph's, he continued his special knack of helping ordinary people achieve the extraordinary by being a servant to his parishioners and their children. Through the guidance and education he provided at St. Joseph Catholic School, and the Parish Religious Education Program (PREP), a program for youth and adults, he was able to connect with many in the community of Palm Bay who wanted to learn and grow in their Catholic faith. He was well known for leading these congregations in song, and occasionally playing the guitar. His culinary delights were well known every year at the Fall Festival when everyone enjoyed his clam chowder.

Outside of the church, Father Bob enjoyed fishing, golf, traveling, reading, cooking, and sharing the company of friends and family.

Father Bob considered himself truly blessed to serve others. He enjoyed being a shepherd to his flock, and God will no doubt greet him with the words "Well done my good and faithful servant."

Father Bob was accompanied in his death by his sister, Sally Hoeffner. He is preceded in death by his parents, Bernard and Margaret Hoeffner, and by his sister, Patricia Hoeffner. He is survived by his siblings Thomas Hoeffner, (Barbara), William Hoeffner, Susan Trundle, (Terry), Gerry "Max" Hoeffner, (Mendi), Lisa Hoeffner. Nieces and nephews, Kevin Hoeffner, (Debbie), Jennie Capezza, (Louis), Sam Hoeffner, Molly Hoeffner, Amy McDonald,(Ken), Tiffany Siler,(Allen), Justin Crossett,(Malle), Casey Gaines,(Andy), Maggie Summers,(Spencer), Neil Hoeffner,(Ngoc), Vince Hoeffner, and Mac Hoeffner.

Prayer Service and visitation for Reverend Robert Hoeffner and Sally Hoeffner will be Monday, February 19th at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Palm Bay, FL. Visitation will begin at 5:00 p.m. with a Prayer Service beginning at 6:00 p.m. A funeral mass will be celebrated by the Most Reverend John Gerard Noonan on Tuesday, February 20, 2024, at 11 a.m. at St. John the Evangelist, 5655 Stadium Pkwy, Viera, FL 32940.

Livestreaming is available for both services through St. Joseph Catholic Church and St. John the Evangelist websites. Arrangements are under the direction of Haisley Funeral Home, Fort Pierce. An online guest book may be signed at www.haisleyfuneralhome.com

Guestbook

My condolences to Bob's siblings and family and to the larger family of the thousands of people he influenced over the years.

JACK WILCOSKY

Feb 7, 2024



It is with a weighty heart I learned that the Priest who married Sylvia and me almost fifty years ago (12/01/1974) left us behind along with his lovely sister in Palm Bay, FL on January 28, 2024. When we first met Father Bob we were nineteen years old and liked him. He had long hair, and a beard, and wore sandals during our wedding (which drove my Baptist Momma nuts...) We identified well with each other and were very comfortable with Father Bob joining us ceremonially for a long life together. It's been a few years since I've seen him but I will honor him at his funeral by attending and paying my most heartfelt respects on February 20th. Unfortunately, my wife Sylvia is not with me now, she is with Father Bob! We lost her to an unexpected illness on December 15, 2015. This event brought back many wonderful memories of our interaction with Father Bob at Good Shepherd Catholic Church in Orlando, FL during his tenure there. He was well-liked by our sizeable family and our two children as well. Rest in Peace Father Bob and God Bless you for your good and faithful service!!! Much Love, Tommy Moch

TOMMY MOCH

Feb 7, 2024



Our deepest sympathy to your family at this most painful time. We pray that your treasured memories of Sally and Robert will keep you strong and give you peace.

BRUCE & LINDA CAMPLIN

Feb 8, 2024



Love and prayers to the Hoeffner Family. May all your fondest memories keep you all at peace.

LARRY AND ANGELA NOELKE

Feb 8, 2024



Father Bob did so much during his time on earth. May he rest in peace, eternally in the arms of our Father ❤️ Sending love and prayers to the Hoeffner family.

CHRIS AND KAREN RICHMOND

Feb 9, 2024

Father Bob, you were a wonderful inspiration and if not for you and your guidance I couldn't have made it. ❤️

J COLEMAN

Feb 9, 2024

Rest in Peace Father Bob/there is a special place in Heaven for you. with love

EOSEMARY LA MASTUS

Feb 9, 2024



Eternal rest grant unto them & May perpetual light shine upon them. Rest in peace Fr Bob & Sally

JOHN & LINDA NOELKE

Feb 9, 2024

Rest in peace Fr. Bob. Condolences to the family although he was family to everyone who knew him. He certainly lived an exceptional life of what God expects of all of us(helping and encouraging people) and will be well remembered for that and all the lives he touched. What a true example we can all learn from and carry on his legacy!!

FRANK CANTY

Feb 11, 2024

Nielsen and Knowles family has purchased Island Sunset for Reverend Robert Hoeffner

NIELSEN AND KNOWLES FAMILY

Feb 11, 2024

I met Fr. Bob at Good Shepherd School many years ago and kept in touch almost all these years. He especially had a heart for people with complicated challenges. He made such a positive difference in my families life by living the way Jesus calls us to live. I will forever remember his sense of humor! My heart is broken, but my prayers are with his family and all the people whose lives were touched by his.

ANGIE A.

Feb 15, 2024

I have known Father Bob for many years. He blessed our first house, baptized my children. As they grew he gave them their first communions and confirmations. He was truly a wonderful and loving man of God.

LINDA SMITH

Feb 16, 2024

The Team at Bibb Distributing has purchased Sympathy Dish Garden for Reverend Robert Hoeffner

THE TEAM AT BIBB DISTRIBUTING

Feb 16, 2024

Thank you, Father Bob, for all you've done for me and my family. You were truly a man of the people as well as a man of God. I will especially cherish the memory of your blessing the marriage of my husband John and myself, it was a really happy day. Rest in Peace, dear Father Bob. I will miss you.

ELIZABETH GORMAN

Feb 18, 2024

Fr. Bob was my classmate and friend at St. John Vianney Seminary. He was a serious student and a gentle, kind classmate to all. Most of his classmates eventually did not discern a vocation to the priesthood, but it was not surprising to us that Bob did. Several of us shared our sadness to learn of the tragic passing of Bob and his sister. May they rest in eternal peace.

SHIELDS MCMANUS

Feb 19, 2024



My deepest condolences to the family of father bob it's so hard I just can't believe your no longer here but those golden door of heaven have opened up for you you taught us to be Humble and to stay true to god t thank you from the bottom of my heart for being us my family and me in our time of need my children and grandchildren my daughters and I will never forget you truly and angel go in peace father.

MARY SANCHEZ

Feb 21, 2024

We met Fr Bob and Sally Hoeffner at St Isaac-Jogues, they were an important part of our life there and meant the world to our family. Fr Bob baptized us, christened our children, served first communion, and was prominent in our baby books (for years). Attending masses - his homily would have us laughing and crying and thinking - the example he set encouraged us to lean on God, and expand our faith; he took his calling serious and made it look effortless. I always thought I'd get back to Florida, to visit one day... We were devastated to hear the news, but will hold Fr Bob and Sally in our hearts, forever remembered.

TERRI DAMATO

Feb 22, 2024

RIP Fr Bob you did our son's communion at st Isaac Jogues. The kids loved you there

DEBBIE JOHNSON

Feb 24, 2024



Father Bob was one of my closest friends. He was always there when needed. I will always have a hole in my heart for him and Sally. I will miss their birthday calls and being able to spend time with them. I know they are happy with God in heaven,

PATRICIA PEARSON

Mar 1, 2024