



Rev. Msgr. Raymond A. Barton

May 21, 1940 - September 17, 2022

Rev. Msgr. Raymond A. Barton of Virginia Beach, Virginia passed away peacefully on Saturday, September 17, 2022. Msgr. Barton was a priest of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Richmond, who pastored parishes throughout the diocese until his retirement in June 2011.

Msgr. Barton was preceded in death by his parents, James A. Barton and Catherine Devitt Barton; by his two sisters, Della B. Pestridge and June B. Farrar; and by his brother, James Lenwood Barton. He is survived by his sister, Therese Barton-Bayse, along with many loving cousins, nieces and nephews.

Msgr. Barton was born and grew up in Lynchburg, Virginia. He graduated from Holy Cross School in 1958 and entered Saint Bernard Seminary in Birmingham, Alabama. To continue his college education, he was admitted to Mount Saint Mary's Seminary and University in Emmittsburg, Maryland, where he graduated and went on to earn two master's degrees. He was ordained to the priesthood on May 14, 1966.

As a young priest, Father Barton first was assigned to the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Richmond, after which he served on the faculty of St. John Vianney High School Seminary in Richmond from 1968-1973. He then was appointed pastor of the Church of the Sacred Heart in Norfolk, Virginia, where he served from 1973-1977.

In 1977, Msgr. Barton, along with Episcopalian priest, The Rev. Donald A. Gross, became the first co-pastors of the Church of the Holy Apostles in Virginia Beach. Holy Apostles combines the liturgies of the Catholic Mass and Episcopalian Holy Eucharist into one service for inter-faith and single faith families. Holy Apostles is a symbol of ecumenism, a concept to which Msgr. Barton remained committed throughout his life.

On January 26, 1997, Father Barton was honored with the title "Monsignor" due to his years of dedicated service and many contributions to the Church. In 2006 he was appointed President of the Virginia Council of Churches, and that same year he received the Faith in Action Award from the Council.

Msgr. Barton served as pastor of Holy Comforter Parish in Charlottesville from 1989-1999, and as pastor of Saint Nicholas Parish in Virginia Beach from 1999 until his retirement in 2011. He will always remain in the hearts of his many friends and parishioners.

Visitation will take place in the Chapel at H.D. Oliver Funeral Apts., 2002 Laskin Road, Virginia Beach on Tuesday, September 27 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. A Mass of the Resurrection will be celebrated at Saint Nicholas Catholic Church, 712 Little Neck Road, Virginia Beach on Wednesday, September 28 at 11:00 a.m. A graveside service will be held at Holy Cross Cemetery on Bedford Avenue in Lynchburg, Virginia on Thursday, September 29 at 11:30 a.m.

Events

29
Sep

GRAVESIDE

11:30 AM

Holy Cross Cemetery
Bedford Ave.,
Lynchburg, VA 24504

28
Sep

SERVICE

11:00 AM

St. Nicholas Catholic
Church 712 Little Neck
Rd., Virginia Beach, VA
23452

27
Sep

VISITATION

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

H.D. Oliver Funeral
Apts., Laskin Road
Chapel 2002 Laskin
Rd, Virginia Beach, VA
23454

Tribute Wall

L

Laurence Surface

He officiated at wedding of myself, Laurence Surface, and my wife Mary Alice Spires at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church in June 1975. Very fond memories of Fr. Barton.

S

Sandra Roberts

I worked with Fr Barton when he was in residence at Blessed sacrament church in Norolk. He had a keen sense of humor. One time during the summer when he was wearing shorts someone commented on his legs. "These are the ones God gave me" was his response. At staff lunch he would offer the prayer "rub-a-dub-dub, thanks for the grub. Yea God". I'm pleased to have called him friend.

M

Margaret

I came to know Ray shortly after his ordination to the priesthood. We remained friends until I moved from VA and poor health took its toll. I will remember his smile and the joy and peace he communicated. Ray, you will continue to have a place in my heart.

P

Pat Walsh

A wonderful man, always fun to be with. A passion for ecumenism. a deep faith and a captivating smile. I still wear a Jerusalem cross he brought me from the Holy Land. May he now rest in God's peace.

A

Anne-Marie

It was my privilege to be Father Barton's pharmacist and friend from 1999 until he entered Marion Manor. I loved his unbridled laughter. He was such a gracious man. All of us loved to hear of his trips including the Canadian Rockies by rail and Italy and the Vatican. One story that I remember is when my pharmacy tech, Shala, asked him to bring her a key chain from the Vatican. Sure enough, on his return he had one for her, and it had been blessed by the Pope! Father Barton truly was a true and faithful servant of God. Anne-Marie

G

Grace Jordan

My sincere condolences to you Therese on your brother's passing. It has been my privilege to know you both. You are in my thoughts.
Grace J

T

Timothy Harrison

We were lucky to have Father Barton at St. Nicholas. He was a great pastor and a great friend!

T

Timothy Harrison



"Material_candle_red_thumbnail"

was lit in memory of Rev. Msgr. Raymond A. Barton



Light a candle

Show your support by giving a symbol of remembrance

P

Petrulis Family



"Material_candle_blue_thumbnail"

was lit in memory of Rev. Msgr. Raymond A. Barton



Light a candle

Show your support by giving a symbol of remembrance

P

Petrulis Family

You were such a great spiritual guidance in David's life with sacraments of baptism, first communion..... and we loved your presence/homilies, prayers and love- thank you Fr, Barton. Grateful!

B

Bob Brown

Thank you for the years you were pastor at St. Nicholas Catholic Church. We love you and miss you.
