

Rev Thomas Jerome Ward

BIRTH	13 Sep 1932 Independence, Jackson County, Missouri, USA
DEATH	4 Nov 2012 (aged 80) Kansas City, Jackson County, Missouri, USA
BURIAL	Woodlawn Cemetery Independence, Jackson County, Missouri, USA Add to Map
PLOT	New St. Mary's, Sec 21, Lot E-1, Sp 10
MEMORIAL ID	100265157 · View Source

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Fr. Thomas J. Ward, 80, completed his earthly mission surrounded by his family and peers at the Little Sisters of the Poor complex early Sunday morning, Nov. 4, 2012.

Visitation will be from 5 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 7, at St. Mary's Catholic Church, 611 N. Liberty St., Independence, with Rosary at 7:45 p.m. Mass of Christian Burial will be at 10 a.m. Thursday at the church. Interment at St. Mary's Cemetery; Woodlawn in Independence.

Born on Sept. 13, 1932, Fr. Ward, an Independence, Mo., native, attended St. Mary's, then graduated from St. Benedict's in 1955. After serving in the U.S. Army (1955-1957), he resumed seminary studies and graduated from Conception Seminary in 1962. "Uncle Jerry" was a brave man possessing unique character, a large heart and many talents. He dedicated these attributes to the service of others, being ordained a Roman Catholic priest in the Diocese Kansas City, St. Joseph on May 26, 1962. In addition to the eight parishes he served throughout his career, he also served as a Lieutenant Commander, U.S. Navy Chaplain Corps (1965-1971); including two tours in Vietnam. He was inducted into the Knights of the Holy Sepulcher in 1976. Fortified by the Sacred Heart and consecrated to the Blessed Virgin Mary; Fr. Ward was known for successfully guiding several faith communities in parish development. His personal skills in re-modeling, organizational management, accounting and automobiles made him highly qualified as a generous "people's-pastor."

He is survived by his sisters, Mary Meyer (Richard) and Teresa Daniel (Gary); and sister-in-law, Mary Sue Ward. He was a proud uncle of 12, great-uncle of 25 and great-great uncle of 5.

Fr. Ward and his family wish to thank all those at the VA Hospital who aided him during his illness over the last several years. The Ward family also extends many thanks to the Little Sisters of the Poor, who cared for Fr. Ward during his closing chapter.

Memorial donations may be made to St. Mary's Church, Independence, Mo., or the Little Sisters of the Poor, 8745 James A. Reed Road, Kansas City, Mo.

Condolences to www.mcgilleysheil.com.

Arrangements: McGilley & Sheil Chapel, 816-353-6555.