

OBITUARIES

Obituaries, Week of Nov. 19, 2022

November 16, 2022



Father Richard Lewkiewicz, affectionately known as “Father Lewk,” who was a dedicated parish priest known for his great devotion to parochial ministry and to Communion calls, died on Nov. 2 at age 79.

A graduate of Cathedral College, Brooklyn, and the Seminary of the Immaculate Conception, Father Lewkiewicz earned a BA in philosophy and an STB in Theology. He was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Francis J. Mugavero at the Cathedral Basilica of St. James in Downtown Brooklyn on June 1, 1968.

Father Lewkiewicz generously served as parochial vicar for the parishes of Blessed Sacrament, Brooklyn (1968- 1979); St. Camillus, Rockaway Park (1979-1988); Good Shepherd, Marine Park (1988-98); and Our Lady of Angels, Bay Ridge (1998-2017).

He also served as coordinator of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA), a process through which non-baptized men and women enter the Catholic Church. In retirement, Father Lewkiewicz lived at the Bishop Mugavero Residence for Senior Priests at the Immaculate Conception Center in Douglaston.

Msgr. Kevin Noone, who served nine years together with Father Lewkiewicz at Our Lady of Angels, remembers that “he had no desire to be a pastor and didn’t want any part of administration. His only ambition was to be a parish priest.”

“Running Bible discussion groups with small groups of 10 to 15 parishioners was most satisfying for him,” he added.

A funeral Mass for Father Lewkiewicz was celebrated on Nov. 10 at the Immaculate Conception Center in Douglaston by Bishop Brennan, with Msgr. Noone as the homilist. Interment followed at Calvary Cemetery, Woodside.