



1947 — *Father* — 2024

Father Michael John Barras

October 20, 1947 — July 7, 2024

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated for Reverend Michael John Barras, a priest of the Diocese of Lake Charles, at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception on Friday, July 12th, at 2:00 PM. Father Barras died peacefully at the age of 76 on Sunday, July 7, 2024.

The Most Reverend Glen John Provost, Bishop of Lake Charles, will be the celebrant with priests of the Diocese concelebrating the liturgy. The Reverend Whitney Miller will be the homilist. Burial will follow the Mass at Highland Memory Gardens under the direction of Johnson Funeral Home.

Visitation will be Friday, July 12th, from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM with a Rosary recited at 1:00 PM at Johnson Funeral Home of Lake Charles.

Father Barras was born on October 20, 1947 in Lake Charles, LA to Emile Mitchell Barras, Sr. and Therese Pellerin Barras. He attended Immaculate Conception School and Landry Memorial. He began his priestly studies at the age of 13 at Immaculata Seminary in Lafayette, then St. Meinrad in Indiana and Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans.

Father Barras was ordained to the priesthood for the Diocese of Lafayette by The Most Reverend Gerald Frey, Bishop of Lafayette, on May 19, 1973. His initial pastoral assignments were at St. Martin de Tours Catholic Church in St. Martinville, Church of the Assumption in Franklin, and St. Ann Catholic Church in Mamou where he served as associate pastor.

In 1980, upon the establishment of the Diocese of Lake Charles, Father Barras was incardinated as a priest of the diocese. He was then named Pastor of St. Paul Catholic Church in Elton where he served for 12 years. He went on to serve for several years at Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic Church and the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. He was then named Pastor of Immaculate Heart of Mary (1990-2001), and then he went on to serve as

Pastor of St. Joan of Arc in Oberlin (2001-2009). His final assignment began in 2009 at St. John Bosco in Westlake where he remained until his last days. He was a devoted member of the ACTS community where he served as Spiritual Director on numerous retreats. He also served as Chaplain at West Calcasieu Cameron Hospital.

Father Barras is survived by his sister, Rita Barras Gayle, nephews, Michael McClosky and Byron Gayle, and nieces, Jennifer Watson and Amanda Caraway. He was also a “great” uncle to Kerstin McClosky, Jack and Anna Watson, and Abby, Elizabeth, Joseph, Luke, Andrew and Ella Caraway.

Father Barras’ family also extended to the many people in his church family who he encountered throughout his ministry. In every parish he served, he was always welcomed and loved by wonderful families creating special bonds and cherished memories that added so much joy to his life.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his brother, Emile Mitchell Barras, Jr.

Father Barras was a gentle, kind, and humble man. He lived a life of service as a vessel of Christ for 51 years.

The family would like to extend their gratitude to all who cared for Father Barras in his last days: Father Janesh Joseph, Deacon Fred Reed, and the staff at St. John Bosco, Christus St. Patrick Hospital, the caregivers and staff at Villa Maria, and Heart of Hospice.

Service Schedule

Past Services



Visitation

Friday, July 12, 2024
10:00 - 2:00 am (Central time)
[Add to Calendar](#)

Johnson Funeral Home
4321 Lake Street, Lake Charles,
LA 70605



Rosary

Friday, July 12, 2024
1:00 - 1:00 pm (Central time)
[Add to Calendar](#)

Johnson Funeral Home
4321 Lake Street, Lake Charles,
LA 70605



Mass of Christian Burial

Friday, July 12, 2024
2:00 - 2:00 pm (Central time)
[Add to Calendar](#)

Cathedral of the Immaculate
Conception Catholic Church
935 Bilbo Street, Lake Charles,
LA 70601

Guestbook

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen

CHRISTINE FOREMAN

Jul 9, 2024

Sorry for your loss!

PHILIP GAYLE

Jul 9, 2024

Father Michael will be dearly missed  I have a very fond conversation that I had with him that I will carry with me forever.

CYNTHIA MCCLOSKY

Jul 9, 2024

God Bless you.

ELIZABETH HEBERT

Jul 10, 2024

Rita & family, We are deeply saddened by the loss of Fr Mike. We know that he is with our Lord & Savior enjoying his heavenly reward. Sending our love & prayers to you all. Mike & Linda Bole

LINDA BOLE

Jul 9, 2024

God bless you, Father Mike! May you rest in Peace! With you, I received my first Holy Sacraments of Reconciliation, Holy Communion, and Confirmation. You instilled a great foundation of Faith in me, and I am eternally grateful. Thank you for answering God's Call to the Priesthood. I love you, Father Mike!

HEATHER KEY

Jul 10, 2024

Our thoughts and prayers goes out to the family. Father Mike was a kind, funny and compassionate person. I'm so glad I was able to make my ACTS RETREAT with him. He kept us laughing and I felt very relax and comfortable talking with him bout things and will always remember his advice. REST IN PEACE FATHER MIKE You will greatly be missed 

JOAN AND KENNETH VIDRINE

Jul 11, 2024

Our Spiritual Director for ACTS Retreat where he represented Persona Christi in a beautiful way that was instrumental for God's work in that retreat! So grateful to have met and worked with him! May his soul by the Power of God rest in Peace and the Perpetual Light shine on him! Peace Always-Todd

M. TODD THERIOT

Jul 12, 2024

A gentle soul was he. Always spoke well of others. I knew him from 5th grade at Landry High School (now St. Louis High), and at Immaculata Seminary in Lafayette in the 60's. May he enjoy his eternal reward.

JOHN BARNEY STEWART

Jul 21, 2024