

## Father Martin "Marty" Donnelly

August 16, 1938 - January 27, 2019

Father P. Martin "Marty" Donnelly was sent by God on August 16, 1938, which began a lifelong walk in service to others. This journey touched many in the greater Northwest Ohio community. Fr. Marty's journey of service ended when he passed away January 27, 2019, surrounded by family and friends. A life well done!

He was born the son of Leonard and Agnes Donnelly, who were founding members of Most Blessed Sacrament Parish, where Marty attended elementary school. Marty then attended Toledo Central Catholic High School and was a member of "the great class of 1956". Many of Marty's classmates remained lifelong friends and gathered regularly. After Central Catholic, Marty followed his older brother Bob's path into the priesthood.

Marty attended St. Meinrad Seminary College and earned his bachelor's degree in 1961. Subsequently, Marty attended Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome and was ordained a Roman Catholic priest in 1964. Fr. Marty also received a Master in Education in 1973, from the University of Notre Dame. Once Fr. Marty entered the priesthood his life of service accelerated with assignments at Norwalk St. Paul Parish and High School from 1964-1968, and Lima Central Catholic from 1968-1973. It was in 1973, that Fr. Marty returned to his alma mater, Toledo Central Catholic, as an Assistant Principal. In 1976, he was named the seventh Principal and later the first Pastor and President of Toledo Central Catholic, a role he served until 1987. Fr. Marty became Pastor at St. Ann and St. Theresa parishes in 1987, and served as

pastor of St. Martin de Porres from 1990 to 2005. In 2005, he returned to his roots as Pastor of Most Blessed Sacrament Parish until his retirement in 2011. Through his years of faith filled service, Fr. Marty mentored and supported youth from his schools, parishes and neighborhoods, helping them to weave the fabric of their communities. He will always be remembered for his dedication to the poor and furthering social justice causes in the community. Fr. Marty was affiliated with many organizations including Central City Ministries of Toledo, the Erase the Hate Campaign, the Ohio Coalition against gun violence and the Multi-Faith Council of Northwest Ohio. Through his advocacy for these organizations and others, Fr. Marty touched the lives of many.

Being a servant to others, he never sought or wanted recognition for himself, however he earned many, including Toledoan of the Year, receiving a Key to the City in 2005; Central Catholic Golden Shamrock Award 2001; a Humanitarian of the year award; Drum Major for Justice in 2005; the St. Katherine Drexel award in 2006; a Voice for All People in 2007, and the Central City Ministry Service Award in 2011.

In addition to his passionate service to others Fr. Marty was truly family centric, encompassing the Donnelly, Hendricks and greater Quinn clans. Fr. Marty fully loved and looked forward to the annual Quinn reunions where everyone anticipated his creative costumes based upon the theme of the family party.

Fr. Marty was preceded in death by his parents, Leonard and Agnes Donnelly; brothers, Leonard "Quinnie", Most Reverend Robert Donnelly, Auxiliary Bishop of Toledo and sister, Mary Hendricks. Surviving are his brother-in-law, Patrick Hendricks, nieces, Ann (Tim) Doran, Kay (William) Byrne; nephews, Larry (Sharon) Hendricks, Jim (Julie) Hendricks, Mike (Kaye) Hendricks and David (Betsi) Hendricks, 16 great and 10 great great nieces and nephews.

The family would like to thank the staff at the ProMedica Ebeid Hospice Residence for their care and comfort during Fr. Marty's final journey. A special thanks also to cousin, Dorothy "Buck" Taylor for her years of dedication, love,

care and friendship with Fr. Marty.

Visitation will be from 2 to 7 p.m. with Evening Prayer to follow at 7 p.m., on Thursday, January 31, 2019, at Our Lady Queen of the Most Holy Rosary Cathedral, 2535 Collingwood Boulevard, Toledo. Thursday's visitation will be hosted by his faithful parishioners of St. Martin de Porres. On Friday, February 1, 2019, visitation will be from 9 to 10:45 a.m., at Most Blessed Sacrament Church, 2240 Castlewood Dr. Toledo, followed by Words of Remembrance at 10:45 a.m. and the Funeral Mass at 11 a.m. Burial will be private to family. The family would suggest any memorial donations be made to Toledo Central Catholic High School, Most Blessed Sacrament or St. Martin de Porres Parishes.

His mantra for all to remember: "Love One Another!"

Arrangements entrusted to the Ansberg-West Funeral Directors, (419) 472-7633.

# Cemetery Details

**Private**

## Previous Events

### Visitation

JAN 31. 2:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Our Lady, Queen of the Most Holy Rosary Cathedral  
2535 Collingwood Blvd.  
Toledo, OH 43610

### Visitation

FEB 1. 9:00 AM - 10:45 AM (ET)

Most Blessed Sacrament Church  
2240 Castlewood Dr  
Toledo, OH 43613

### Service

FEB 1. 11:00 AM (ET)

Most Blessed Sacrament Church  
2240 Castlewood Dr  
Toledo, OH 43613

# Tribute Wall

AW

“ Although it has been years since we were neighbors in the Old West End our ties to your family are still some of our best memories. We just wanted you to know our prayers are with you all. He was a very special priest. Sincerely, Tony and Pauline Wallace

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**Anthony Wallace** - February 06, 2019 at 12:24 PM

MA

“ Our dad Richard Alt, worked for Father Donnelly as custodian and ushered at St. Ann's/ St. Martin de Porres and mom, Marceline Alt was in charge of the Feed Your Neighbor Program and was St. Martin de Porres School Librarian. Father Marty officiated at both Mom and Dad's funerals. Father Marty was a good friend of our parents.

*May he rest in peace,  
Mike and Sue Alt*

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**Michael Alt** - February 01, 2019 at 08:47 AM

GL

“ Fr Marty was such a compassionate, loving man. He married our daughter and son-in-law, Kelly and Matt Mangas in 1994. It was a ceremony that I will never forget - nor would anyone in attendance. To our daughters surprise, he read a letter that Kelly had written to him, thanking him for his guidance through their pre-marital counseling. It was such a loving thing for him to do. Throughout the rest of his life, we would occasionally run into one another at breakfast, Wildwood Park, various functions, etc. and he would always ask How's Kelly? I don't believe he ever forgot her beautiful letter. He touched so many lives in so many wonderful ways. He will be missed . . .

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**Gretta Laskey** - January 31, 2019 at 03:12 PM

JT

“ *It was an honor to be your friend. We loved you. Rest In Peace.  
Jerry and Judy Throne*

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**Jerry Throne** - January 30, 2019 at 02:38 PM

CC

“ *We extend our deep sympathy on the death of dear Father Marty. Our son and daughter had the good fortune to attend Central Catholic High School while he was Pastor President and Cathy also worked on his staff. He was an inspiring leader who called on us all to express our best selves in service to one another. He will be missed but will not be forgotten by us all. Love to all his family and friends,  
Cathy and Bill Carroll*

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**Cathy/Bill Carroll** - January 30, 2019 at 06:29 AM

CP

“ *Chris Ehram Porter lit a candle in memory of  
Father Martin "Marty" Donnelly*



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**Chris Ehram Porter** - January 29, 2019 at 08:52 PM

JC

“ Marty and I went through Blessed Sacrament grade school in the same class. He was always the life of the party! He always was so much fun to be with and do things with! Even though we parted ways after graduating whenever we happened to see each other it was as if we never were apart! He always had a kind me word or a joke to make me laugh! My daughter and son-in-law had the privilege of Marty officiating at their wedding. My family and I will always have a special place in our hearts in memory of a very dear friend who became a very loving and memorable priest who touched so many lives  
The Jim Campey Family

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**James Campey** - January 29, 2019 at 08:49 PM

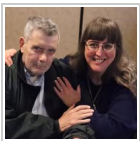
CS

“ Cathy Sipos ~ Central Catholic 78' lit a candle in memory of Father Martin "Marty" Donnelly



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**Cathy Sipos** - January 29, 2019 at 08:36 PM



“ Eternal rest grant unto Father Donnelly, O Lord, and let Perpetual Light Shine upon him. May his soul, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through The Mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

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**Kristi Kille** - January 29, 2019 at 08:27 PM

FS

“ *Marty was a few years ahead of me in seminary and in many ways he was way ahead of me. He was a model for me of what a lively priesthood could look like and gave me courage to go forward and get ordained*

*Through the years he was an inspiration by his actions and his words, especially in terms of reform of the church and seeking justice for the poor*

*God bless Mary Donnelly  
Ed Schleter*

*Peace!*

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**Fr. Ed Schleter** - January 29, 2019 at 06:33 PM

RK

“ *I cannot think of Marty during our days together in Rome without smiling. Roger Karban*

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**Roger Karban** - January 29, 2019 at 04:43 PM

“ When I learned that Father Donnelly died, my first thought -- before the sadness hit me . . . before the memories began rushing in -- was, "Catholic Schools Week! What an appropriate time for Marty Donnelly to enter Heaven." I was blessed to work at Toledo Central Catholic High School under Father Donnelly at the very beginning of my teaching career. While many of the fabulous people there helped guide me as a teacher, Father Donnelly formed my teaching and my principaling for the rest of my career. He was my mentor and friend. My heart hurts to know that he is gone but I trust that he is thrilled to see God's face and rest in His comforting arms. Father Donnelly loved meetings. The rest of us tolerated meetings. He seemed to truly enjoy them. Meetings were not only a great, safe place for brainstorming and planning the next big move for Central Catholic but they were also a social event for Marty, I thought. There were meetings in classrooms, meetings in his office, and even (and often!) meetings in his home. During the time that he lived with and cared for his dad, the meetings in his home happened around the supper table in the Donnelly dining room. I was honored to be the cook on more than one of those occasions. Mr. Donnelly, Father Donnelly, and "his brother, the Bishop," as Marty enjoyed saying, would be there and join in the conversation with members of the Pastoral Services Team or whatever group Father Donnelly was entertaining that evening. No wonder everyone felt that, big as it was, Central Catholic was a family. Father Donnelly operated that way. He mixed school and family until they became the same. Father Donnelly loved his students. He worried about them and counseled them just like a dad would. He took pride in their achievements. Our students were not sheltered from personal tragedy. There were losses of parents and even fellow students during those years. Father Donnelly grieved with his school family and took a personal, loving interest in those whose grief he shared. He could get angry but it was always for the right reasons. He could get silly. Sometimes it was because he sensed the need for comic relief. Sometimes it was just because he wanted to have some fun. I always thought there was a bit of that Central Catholic Irish Leprechaun in him, right down to the twinkle in his eye. Father

*Donnelly did a whole lot of good in the world before I knew him and he sure did maintain his great example of servant leadership as he went on to lead inner city parishes after he left Central Catholic. He accomplished great things, energized many people to do the right thing, and praised God with his very life.*

*I owe Father Donnelly so much for all that he taught me and showed me by his example. I know there are hundreds of others -- students of his, teachers who worked for him, co-workers, family -- who will all say the same thing. We were so very blessed to have this Treasure in our lives. We are so very fortunate that he was the kind of leader who inspired others to lead as well. I miss having Father Donnelly in my life. At the same time, I rejoice in all that he leaves behind: his legacy of service, of outreach, of acceptance, of excellence in Catholic education, of faith, of friendship, and of belief and trust in our unfailing God. My sincere condolences to all of Father Donnelly's amazing, loving, welcoming family (Hi, Dave, and all the Hendricks family!) and to all those, like me, who had the honor of working with Marty and who, today, are feeling great sadness at this loss. Let's pray for one another and encourage one another to be the Light in the world that he was to us. Until we meet in Heaven, Father Donnelly. I thank God for your role in my life. God bless you all!*

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**Tressa Scheiber Reith** - January 29, 2019 at 03:55 PM

JM

“*As a former teacher at Lima Central Catholic, I send condolences to the family of Father Donnelly who taught me so much by his quiet example about working with teens. I remember him fondly. Joanne Juhasz McGinnis*

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**Joanne McGinnis** - January 29, 2019 at 02:21 PM

JC

*I cannot think of my years at Lima Central Catholic without thinking of Father Donnelly. He was a truly kind man with a gift for listening. I am grateful he was a part of my life during those years. May he rest in eternal peace.*

*Jeannine Essick Carrier.*

Jeannine Essick Carrier - January 30, 2019 at 01:10 PM

AW

“ *Amy Whitaker lit a candle in memory of Father Martin "Marty" Donnelly*



Amy whitaker - January 29, 2019 at 12:08 PM

MK

“ *Mike Kolodzaike lit a candle in memory of Father Martin "Marty" Donnelly*



mike kolodzaike - January 29, 2019 at 11:38 AM

AF

“ *A Friend lit a candle in memory of Father Martin "Marty" Donnelly*



A friend - January 29, 2019 at 10:40 AM

DV

“ *There will never be another like him. We are heartbroken, and yet happy that he will join in the communion of saints with so many of his loved ones, and with his dear friend, Jesus. We were honored to call him friend as well as Father.*

*Love, Diana, Mark, Bradon, Devon and Emma VanWinkle*

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**Diana VanWinkle** - January 29, 2019 at 10:09 AM

CB

“ *just one of the many lives that Fr touched I,ve been blessed to know him. chris brown*

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**chris j brown** - January 29, 2019 at 06:56 AM

BS

“ *Father Donnelly was the kindest, most gentle man I have ever known. He will always be special to me from my years at CCHS. He guided my husband and I when we were engaged, and was the celebrant at our wedding at St Martin de Porres. He will forever be important to our family. We had the pleasure of talking with him about 2 years ago, after not seeing him for a very long time. It was wonderful to see his eyes light up as he remembered us, even though most memories had gone foggy for him. What an extraordinarily special man. I thank God that my path crossed his.*

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**Beth Rosa Senecal** - January 29, 2019 at 06:45 AM