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James Bettendorf Obituary

**BETTENDORF,
REVEREND DR. JAMES B.
Burton**

Age 78, died Wednesday, July 25, 2012 at Genesys Hospice Care Center in Goodrich. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at St. Michael Catholic Church, 609 East Fifth Avenue, Flint, at 11:00 AM on Tuesday, July 31, 2012, with the Most Reverend Earl Boyea, Bishop of Lansing, Presiding. The family will receive friends and visitors at the Swartz Funeral Home on Monday from 11:00 AM - 8:00 PM. A Vigil Service will take place at 6:00 PM. Additional visitation will occur at St Michael Church in Flint from 9:00 AM -10:45 AM on Tuesday, July 31, just prior to the Funeral Mass. Burial in St. John's Cemetery in Jackson, Michigan at 11:00 AM on Wednesday, August 1, 2012. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to New Life Center or St. Francis Prayer Center. Fr. Bettendorf was born in Jackson, Michigan on October 22, 1933, the son of the late Bernard and Kathryn (Vaughn) Bettendorf. Reverend Bettendorf graduated from St. Mary's High School in Jackson. He attended Sacred Heart Seminary, Detroit, Michigan and St. John Provincial Seminary, Plymouth, Michigan. he was ordained on June 6, 1959. He received his Master's from Western Michigan

University and Doctorate from St. Mary's in Baltimore. Fr Bettendorf served as Associate Pastor (Parochial Vicar) at Most Holy Trinity, Fowler; St Philip, Battle Creek; Sacred Heart, Flint; and St. Michael, Flint. He was weekend assistant at St Robert in Flushing and St. Francis, Otisville. He served as Pastor at Good Shepherd, Montrose, and St. Leo, Flint until his retirement. He also served in a variety of specialized ministries; an Auxiliary Chaplain at Custer Air Force Base; Chaplain of the Knights of Columbus; board member of Legatus-Ann Arbor; Diocesan Pastoral Council; traveled with the Maryknoll Missions; assisted Lady of Lebanon (Maronite); and his special fondness Campus Ministry, where he served almost 40 years as Campus Minister at Flint Newman Center, as well as Diocesan Campus Minister; during this time he served on many State and National Boards for CCMA. His commitment to CCMA was so outstanding he received the highest recognition, the Charles Forsyth Award. In addition, he was an advocate for the poor and underprivileged, serving and founding member of the Catholic Committee of Concern; founding member of the Flint Soup Kitchen; serving on the board at NIPP; and GLS Health Services; founding member of Interfaith Metropolitan Agency for Planning; Flint Interfaith Alliance; and worked with the Jewish Federation and non-denominational churches. He was prominent in civic affairs as a member of the Flint Rotary for over 40 years, where he was awarded the Paul Harris Fellow; 100 Club in Flint; Mott Community College Trustee for 22 years, where he also served on the State Boards; and Police Chaplain. Fr Bettendorf was a radio programmer (member of the National Religious Broadcasters) and had a weekly radio program. He enjoyed photography, fine music, stage plays, opera, Irish and classical music and circuses. He also enjoyed traveling, was an avid reader, while enjoying a Jamesons. Education was extremely important to him. Surviving are brother, Thomas A. (Jill) Bettendorf of Camden, South Carolina; 2 nieces, Margo (Richard) Martin of Anders, South Carolina and Monica (Peter) Graves of Arlington, Virginia; nephew, Robert Bettendorf of Princeton, New Jersey; 3 great-nephews, Richard Martin, Brian Thomas Martin and Simon Graves, and his friend and ADC, Marti (David) Ploof. Special thank you to his caregivers, Stephanie McCarrick, Camilla Horn, Mary Ann and Hugh Welsh, Sue and Steve Kelly and Paul Wenstrom and Genesys Hospice Care Center in Goodrich. Your condolences may be shared with the family at swartzfuneralhomeinc.com

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Fr Jim was so dear to my heart. I met him through a friend when he was at St Micheal's, and was with the Flint Newman Center. His gentleness and kindness, the love of Jesus he showed through his interactions with us all will stand out in my memories of him. I am deeply saddened by learning of his passing, yet I am happy that he is at peace now.

God bless your soul, Fr Jim. I love you, and I miss you, and I hope to be with you in heaven some day. Thank you for being Jesus for me. Jesus became very real and close to me as He shone through you. R.I.P.

Shirley Moret
Englewood, Colorado



GaylaLynn Fritz February 18, 2013

I meet Fr Jim at Flint Newman Center
May you R.I.P. now
My prayers to the family



William O'Malley, Prof. Emeritus, MCC September 23, 2012

My wife and five daughters will always remember Fr. Bettendorf and his kindness and encouragement during their formative years and beyond. His profound understanding, and outstanding leadership at Mott Community College enriched many lives. He is most sadly missed, but will always be remembered with a smile. See you later, Fr. Jim!



Rev. Georgeann Medved July 31, 2012

We knew Fr. in the sixties and seventies. Our condolences to the family.



Gaston DesHarnais July 31, 2012

Father Jim, our ever gentle friend and classmate at Sacred Heart Seminary where our class grew up together, has gone ahead of us. There in 2005 we had a class reunion and such a pleasant conversation. His light now leaves the door shining and open for us all. My sympathies to his family and friends. Surely we shall meet again in the Divine Light that drew us all together from the start. Vale et Ave, Jim!



Julie Williams July 30, 2012

Fr. Battendorf was truly a disciple of God's. He was a beautiful person and my heart went out to him these last few years and how he suffered but, he never let it be known---always had a smile and kind words. May he rest in peace. Jack & Julie Williams



Estelle Maxwell July 30, 2012

I remember Father Bettendorf from when he was a chaplain at Powers Catholic High School and when he was pastor at St. Leo's. He helped by sitting and listening when I lost my parents at different times.



Char Wyman-Schroeder July 30, 2012

I knew Father Bettendorf from St. Michaels and also because he married my aunt and uncle back in 1968. He has always stayed in touch with our family and has been a welcome guest at many family gatherings. He will be greatly missed by all of us.



frank friedman July 30, 2012

I knew Father Bettendorf when I was a professor at Mott College. He was on the Bd. of Trustees. A fine person and a real scholar. My condolences. Prof. emeritus Frank Friedman, Flint, Mi.



Bev & Danny Feckovic July 29, 2012

My family knew Fr. Bettendorf from his days at Sacred Heart Parish in Flint. He was a great spiritual leader, and with his dry sense of humor, he was always fun to be around. God Bless You, Fr. B. and may you have everlasting peace.



Joseph Bishop July 29, 2012

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Cathy Keener July 29, 2012

I knew Fr. Bettendorf from St. Leo's. He was a fine priest and a good man. He will be missed. R,I,P Father.



Felischa Lang July 29, 2012

I spent a lot of time with Father over the last 6 years. He was a great man, and also a great friend. It saddens me to see such a great person pass. But Father is now in the hands of God. He will be greatly miss by everyone who ever met him.



Edward & Sandy Faxlanger July 28, 2012

We have fond memories of Fr. B from Newman days at St. Michaels, Flint. We were not college students at the time but were Parents trying to find a good place to practice our Catholic Faith along with our family of 7. The Newman center and Fr. B & staff filled that need. Our prayers are with the family members of Fr. B especially his Bro. Tom & Jill . May He Rest in peace!
Ed & Sandy Faxlanger & Family.

6127 White Creek Ln.
Milton, Florida 32570



Kelly Banks July 28, 2012

Father Jim was an inspiration to many, regardless of our personal faith. I always loved to spend conversation time with him at Mott and at outside interests we shared. He always had a smile and great ideas to share. I was blessed to know him. He will be missed but not forgotten.



Gary Sullenger July 27, 2012

I had the privilege of knowing Father Bettendorf when I worked at Mott Community College and he was on the Board. I recall the passion he brought to every conversation always wanting the best for the students.



Sheila Moll July 27, 2012

Dear Bettendorf family,

Life brings tears, smiles and memories. The tears dry, the smiles fade, but the memories live on forever. He was a very dear and kind person.

 Pat Simons July 26, 2012

My deepest sympathy for your loss,
So sorry to here of your loss. May God rest his soul. I can still see him in the front of the class at Sacred Heart school. He was such a great influence on me. He will be missed.



Jean Temple July 26, 2012

He is finally pain free and at peace. All of the former St. Leo parishoners that were there until the end will remember Father Jim and his will to make it to Mass and speed around in his Amigo! Rest in peace

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**Make a Donation
in James Bettendorf's name**