

## FR. MICHAEL R. ROCK, O. DE M.

1959 ~ 2021



As you may have already heard, our own Pastor here at Our Lady of Lourdes passed away unexpectedly last Tuesday in Cleveland, the day before the funeral of another one of our own priests, Fr. Richard Rasch, O. de M. This came as a complete surprise to all of us, and as I am sure you can imagine, his passing will touch the lives of so many people... here in our parish, but also in all the places he has served over the years.

On behalf of our community, thank you for all your prayers and support in this difficult time. Know that we are mourning with you, but keeping our faith as a guide, we will look forward to the day in which the Lord will wipe away all tears.

So that you might know some of the details of the upcoming funeral arrangements, as God has determined, the funeral celebration will follow ecclesiastical and Mercedarian protocols.

Therefore, please make note of the following celebrations, to remember and honor our beloved Pastor:

- The body arrives in Philadelphia from Cleveland on **Sunday, October 17<sup>th</sup>**, and will be welcomed into the church at **4pm**. Immediately after the reception of the body, there will be Vespers from the Office of the Dead said in Fr. Michael's honor. Following the tradition in Philadelphia, there will be time to view the body, and a **parish Mass offered at 8pm**. This Mass is *not a funeral Mass*, but is offered in his honor for those who may not be able to attend the actual funeral.
- The next day, Monday, there will be no daily Mass offered, and instead, there will be Lauds from the Office of the Dead said in Fr. Michael's honor at 8am, followed by a viewing until the funeral. A **FUNERAL MASS** will be celebrated by the Archbishop of Philadelphia here at **Our Lady of Lourdes on Monday, October 18<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am**.
- A Funeral Mass will be celebrated by the Bishop of Cleveland at our Mercedarian parish of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel (Fr. Michael's home parish growing up) on Wednesday, October 20<sup>th</sup> at noon, followed by a graveside service. A viewing will proceed the funeral from 10am until Noon.

Again, thank you for all your prayers and support, and be assured that God is with us all in this difficult time.

~ Fr. Scott Brentwood, O. de M.  
Parochial Vicar