



Rev. Thomas A. Grace

November 1, 1937 - June 5, 2020

Rev. Thomas A. Grace, 82, of Perryville, MO died Friday, June 5, 2020 at Apostle of Charity in Perryville, MO.

Funeral service will be private.

Ford & Young Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Tribute Wall



“ Rev. Thomas A. Grace

October 20, 2023 at 02:54 AM



“ Rev. Thomas A. Grace

October 20, 2023 at 01:44 AM



“ *I try to research people who were important to me in my past. I have tried to keep up with Fr. Grace over the years. I visited with him in the late 70's when he was at the minor seminary in Lemont, Illinois and I was working in Chicago. I googled his name this time and was saddened to find that he had passed. But I was also surprised to see the names of former fellow seminarians sharing their memories, all of whom I was familiar with.*

Wayne Franke was old buddy and confidant. Joe Martinez was a track and field competitor. Frank Coy was a budding rock star.

I remember those days at St. John's like they were yesterday. Fr. Grace tried to bring modern day thinking to the church via the seminary. Unfortunately, he and the rest of the Vincentians left after the 1966-67 school year. As a seminary, St. John's ceased to exist a year later.

I left St. John's in 1967. Fr. Grace and the whole seminary experience left an indelible positive mark on me. I can only hope that he knew this.

Bob Picard

Bob Picard - March 30, 2022 at 11:32 AM

WF

“ I believe I am correct that Fr Grace’s first assignment after having completed his studies to become a priest was as Prefect at St John’s Seminary in San Antonio in the Fall of 1964. I was a member of the Freshman Class that arrived in September of ‘64. I studied at St John’s until I decided that the priesthood wasn’t for me in Dec of ‘66. I learned many great things during my time at St John’s, and many of those things came from Fr Tom Grace. Fr Grace was always accessible to all of us, and we were able to talk with and learn from him about “the things of life” in large part because he too was a young man at the time. While I knew I was making the right decision to leave, I knew that I would miss the friendships I’d made.....including and especially Fr Grace. I maintained communication with numbers of my former fellow seminarians over the years and was blessed to reestablish contact with Fr Grace 3+ years ago after being told where he was staying as a retired priest. A nice lady at St Mary’s of the Barrens, after being assured that I had really attended St John’s, checked with him and he did remember me even though it had been 50+ years since I had left. She arranged for me to get on the phone with him, and while it wasn’t the great “catch up call” I would have wished (Fr Grace was being affected by the illness that got progressively worse), I was nonetheless speaking with the Godly priest who had so influenced so many lives, including mine, at such an early age. I stayed in touch with that same nice lady to check on the status of Fr Grace and she would periodically “hold the phone to his ear” and I would be able to tell him that there were many of us out here, whether we had completed the priestly studies or not, that he had so positively affected. Fr Grace impacted so many lives and I hope he really knew that deep down before the Lord took him home. Blessings and thanks to Fr Thomas Grace.

Wayne T Franke - November 30, 2020 at 02:13 PM

SM

“ I attended St. John's Seminary and in 1964 Fr. Grace was instrumental in making changes benefiting the student community and taking those needed first steps during a period while the Church was engaged in Vatican II. I appreciated his efforts more after I graduated. Rest in peace.

Sean P Martinez - June 09, 2020 at 10:50 AM

FC

“ Fr. Grace was instrumental in my early life as a HS student at St. John's Seminary. I will always be eternally grateful and indebted to him, his family, and his Vincentian brother-priests for giving me such a solid foundation in my Catholic Faith and in my life. May God bless you all in every special way.

- Frank Coy, Richardson, Texas

Frank Coy - June 09, 2020 at 07:36 AM

PT

“ *Worked out there and he was one of my favorites. Very sweet man.* ”

Pat Taylor - June 08, 2020 at 06:38 PM