



NYPD EMERALD SOCIETY

The NYPD Emerald Society mourns the passing of our Chaplain Emeritus, Monsignor Martin Geraghty, age 83. He passed away on Easter Sunday April 9, 2023, surrounded by his loving family at Calvary Hospice. Since last year he was a resident at the Bishop Mugavero Residence for Senior Priests, in Douglaston, Queens. He was a graduate of St. Mary Seminary in Maryland, Class of 1965. After ordination he started his priestly duties in Jackson Heights at St. Joan of Arc Parish. Years later after many assignments and roads travelled, he was assigned to St. Frances de Sales Parish in Rockaway. No doubt the most challenging times for Monsignor was in the Post 9/11 era. The Rockaway community suffered incredible losses, with so many parishioners lost at the devastated site of the World Trade Center, during the terrorist attack. Numerous Memorial Services were offered. His local church was a pillar of faith, where Monsignor honored the lives of the innocent victims. His compassion and dedication to the many grieving families and friends will always be remembered. Incredibly amid all the hardship a second tragedy struck the heart of the neighborhood. On 11/9 as Monsignor was inside the church, American Airlines Flight 587 fell from the sky, after only moments earlier taking off from nearby JFK Airport. The jet crashed in the Belle Harbor residential neighborhood. All on board the aircraft were killed, as well as 6 people on the ground and homes were destroyed. Monsignor was called upon to bless the victims that were left scattered in the streets and yards of the overwhelmed community. This new period of

mourning and hardship certainly tested all those that lived in the Rockaway Peninsula. Monsignor did his best to get everyone through those darkest of days. His faith, compassion and devotion to his community was a true asset during that most trying time.

In 2006 the parish was shaken by a different type of startling news, when it was announced the Monsignor after three, six-year terms was being transferred to St. Robert Bellarmine. The beloved leader of the Rockaway Parish was moving on after 18 years of providing guidance, friendship, and spirituality. Parishioners prepared a petition asking the Bishop to cancel the move. But after being convinced by Monsignor Geraghty the campaign ended and he dutifully went on to Bayside. At St. Robert's he continued his good work and was fully supported by a new legion of followers. In November of 2014 his 50th year as an outstanding Catholic Priest was celebrated. It was reported that nearly 1,000 people in attendance lauded the milestone.

Monsignor Geraghty's time as our Emerald Society Chaplain started back in 1999 and he honorably served us for 14 years. Sometime after he was sent to lead St. Robert Bellarmine, he offered the school as a place to conduct our Annual HS Scholarship Night. The location was an ideal place for the Award Ceremony and Monsignor was very happy to host the families of the young boys and girls. There were some particular times, that stood out during these special events that Monsignor truly enjoyed. On those joyful occasions, the grandnephew and grandniece of Monsignor were honorees, and other relatives of the Geraghty/Graham Clan, all so dear to him, shared those moments in the Parish Hall. Another memorable Emerald Society time was in February 2005. At the Annual Dinner Dance with 800 guests in attendance, President Michael Murphy declared Monsignor Martin Geraghty the NYPD Emerald Society Irishman-of-the-Year. A well-deserved honor for a very special man. It was a humbling experience for such an

unassuming man, and he was very thankful for the award. Many friends from his “hometown” of Belle Harbor were on hand to show their lasting love.

After 14 years of loyal service to the Emerald Society, Monsignor attended his last monthly meeting, as our Chaplain in January 2013. President Sean C. Patterson presented him with an engraved Plaque acknowledging his years of dedication and support. As a final gesture he was titled Chaplain Emeritus, as a lasting token of affection and admiration. He will be longed remembered as a true Irish gentleman and a most caring Parish Priest, by all who were fortunate to know him.

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Arrangements for

Msgr. Martin T. Geraghty

Visitation

St. Francis de Sales Church
129-16 Rockaway Beach Blvd
Belle Harbor, New York 11694

Wednesday April 12th, 2023

2:00-6:00pm

&

Thursday April 13th, 2023

2:00-6:00pm

Mass of Transferal

Thursday April 13th, 2023

7:30pm

Funeral Mass

Friday April 14th, 2023

11:00am

St. Francis de Sales Church

Burial to Follow after Mass

St. Peter's Cemetery

Staten Island, New York