



Dear Priests and Deacons,

*The Reverend Edwin M. Leonard
Parochial Vicar, St. Columbkille, Parma*

died on Monday 22 November 2021 while preparing to celebrate Mass.

Edwin M. Leonard was born on 21 July 1956. His parents were the late George Russell Leonard and Ann F. Kennedy. He was educated at St. Anselm College, Manchester, New Hampshire, Ohio State University, Columbus, Borromeo College, Wickliffe and St. Mary Seminary, Cleveland. On 9 June 1984 in the Cathedral of Saint John the Evangelist, Bishop Anthony M. Pilla ordained him to the priesthood for the service of the Diocese of Cleveland.

Father Leonard's first assignment was as Parochial Vicar of St. Mary of the Assumption, Mentor. On 14 June 1989 he was transferred to St. Hilary, Fairlawn to serve as Parochial Vicar. On 18 July 1994, Fr. Leonard was appointed Parochial Vicar of St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception, Wooster. He was transferred to Holy Family, Parma on 20 June 1995 and served there until he was appointed Parochial Vicar of St. John Neumann, Strongsville on 12 June 2001. On 19 November 2002 he was appointed Administrator, Annunciation, Akron and later named Pastor on 10 June 2003. Fr. Leonard was granted permission to live at the Jesuit Retreat House from November 29, 2006 through March 20, 2009. On 20 March 2009, Fr. Leonard was appointed Parochial Vicar of St. Charles Borromeo, Parma. In addition to this assignment, Fr. Leonard served as Chaplain of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas, effective 7 September 2010. He was transferred to St. Sebastian, Akron on 11 June 2013. On 13 June 2017, he was appointed Parochial Vicar of St. Columbkille, Parma. Fr Leonard loved to teach the faith and to preach homilies that helped the faithful deepen their relationship with the Lord. Fr. Leonard will be remembered for his perseverance despite his physical challenges.

The wake will begin on Monday, 29 November, 2021 at 3:00 p.m. in St. Sebastian Church, 476 Mull Avenue, Akron, Ohio 44320 with Vespers and will continue until 6:00 p.m. Bishop Roger Gries will preside and Fr. Anthony Suso will be the homilist. The Funeral Mass will be celebrated 30 November 2021 in St. Sebastian Church at 10:00 a.m. (please note time change due to Church schedule). Bishop Martin Amos will be the main celebrant and Father Dennis McNeil will be the homilist. Interment at Holy Cross Cemetery, Akron.

In accord with the provisions of the Marian Pact, please try to attend and concelebrate the Funeral Liturgy, offer Mass for him as you are able and cause him to be remembered and prayed for in the appropriate public prayers of the Church. May Fr. Leonard and all our bishops, priests and deacons who have died, live forever in the joy of the Resurrection.

Sincerely in Christ,

Reverend Donald P. Oleksiak
Vicar General/Moderator of the Curia