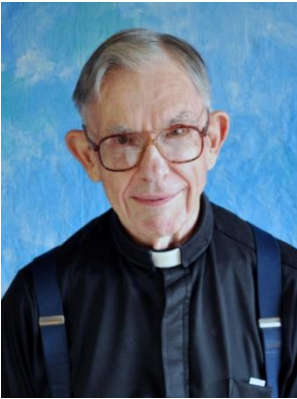


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Rev. Leo A. Taubitz passes away on Divine Mercy Sunday

Retired priest ministered across the diocese



KALAMAZOO, Mich. (April 24, 2017) –Rev. Leo A. Taubitz, 86, passed away peacefully on April 23rd just two days shy of his 87th birthday. Fr. Taubitz had been challenged with declining health in recent years.

Fr. Taubitz was born in Gaines, Mich., on April 25, 1930, son of Anna (Allen) and Charles Taubitz. He was a graduate of both Sacred Heart Seminary, Detroit and St. John Seminary, Plymouth, Mich. He was ordained to the Priesthood on June 2, 1956

for the Diocese of Lansing. He became an incardinated priest for the Diocese of Kalamazoo upon the diocese's founding in 1971.

Fr. Taubitz served in a number of parishes in the Diocese of Lansing and in the Diocese of Kalamazoo. His last assignment before retirement was as Pastor, Holy Maternity of Mary Parish, Dowagiac (1991-2011) and Canonical Pastor, Sacred Heart of Mary, Silver Creek. He retired in 2011 and returned to his hometown. [see "priestly assignments' for additional information.]]

"Father Taubitz was a faithful priest and a good pastor in several parishes for much of his 60 years as a priest. He gave 20 of those years ministering to the good people of Holy Maternity of Mary Parish in Dowagiac", Bishop Bradley said, who continued: "How fitting that we can celebrate his Funeral Mass among those whom he served so faithfully."

Visitation and Mass of Christian Burial will be held at Holy Maternity of Mary Parish, Dowagiac. Fr. Taubitz's body will be received at the Parish at 4 p.m. on Tuesday, April 25 followed by Visitation until 8 p.m. The rosary will be prayed at 7 p.m. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Wednesday, April 26 by Bishop Bradley and concelebrated by priests of the Diocese at 11 a.m. at the Parish. The plans for the interment of Father Taubitz's body in Gaines are still being finalized. Funeral arrangements are being handled by Sharp Funeral Home, Flint, Mich. (www.sharpfuneralhomes.com/)

Fr. Leo Taubitz Priestly Assignments:

Priestly Assignments Diocese of Lansing:

| | | |
|-----------|-----------|---------------------------------|
| 1959-1958 | Assistant | Holy Redeemer, Flint, Michigan |
| 1958-1963 | Assistant | St. Joseph, Kalamazoo, Michigan |
| 1963-1965 | Assistant | St. Mary, Jackson, Michigan |
| 1965-1966 | Assistant | St. Paul, Owosso, Michigan |
| 1966-1967 | Assistant | St. Mary, Mt. Morris, Michigan |

Priestly Assignments: Diocese of Kalamazoo (Est. 1971)

| | | |
|-----------|----------------------|---|
| 1967-1974 | Pastor | Holy Family Parish, Decatur, Michigan |
| 1974-1981 | Pastor | St. Bernard, Benton Harbor, Michigan |
| 1981-1991 | Pastor | St. Anthony, Buchanan |
| 1991-2011 | Pastor | Holy Maternity of Mary Parish, Dowagiac <i>Canonical Pastor, Sacred Heart of Mary, Silver Creek (Quasi Parish)</i> |
| 2011 | Senior Priest Status | |

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The Catholic Diocese of Kalamazoo is the territory of Catholic churches and community led by Bishop Paul J. Bradley. The diocese was founded in 1971 when the Second Vatican Council called for the creation of smaller dioceses so that bishops could be more available to the people they serve. Today the diocese encompasses 5,337 square miles of nine counties in southwest Michigan: Allegan, Barry, Van Buren, Kalamazoo, Calhoun, Berrien, Cass, St. Joseph and Branch and includes 59 parishes as well as 23 Catholic schools. www.diokzoo.org.