

Rev. Joseph M. Lachowski, C.M., S.T.D.

Born: March 16, 1928, Ansonia, CT

Died: December 20, 2012, Flushing, NY

The Rev. Joseph M. Lachowski, C.M., S.T.D., passed away on December 20, 2012, after 58 years of priestly service. He was 84 years old and a resident of Ozanam Hall Nursing Home in Bayside, Queens, NY. He was born in Ansonia, CT, on March 16, 1928, son of the late Walenty and Walentyna Lachowski. Survivors include 9 nieces and nephews, and 21 great-nieces and nephews. Father Joe was predeceased by his 3 sisters: Mary Adamski, Jane Poslusny, and Martha Lachowska, as well as niece Maryann Poslusny.



He attended St. Joseph Parochial School, Ansonia High School, and graduated from St. John Kanty Prep in Erie, PA, in 1945. He entered the Congregation of the Mission and went to St. Joseph's Preparatory Seminary (Princeton); St. Vincent's Novitiate in Germantown, PA; and then Mary Immaculate Seminary in Northampton, PA, where he completed his studies in Philosophy and Theology.

Father Joe was ordained as a Vincentian Priest on May 27, 1954. His first assignment was back at St. John Kanty Prep, where he taught English and Biology, and served as the music director and student director. At the same time, he studied at Gannon University, Erie, graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in 1956. Recognizing his talents, the Vincentians sent him to Rome to continue his theological education at St. Thomas University (Angelicum), receiving the Licentiate of Sacred Theology (S.T.L) and, in 1958, earning his doctorate in Sacred Theology (S.T.D.).

Father then returned to Kanty Prep once more, and for over fifteen years he shared his numerous talents in various disciplines. Father Joseph fluently spoke English, Polish, French, Italian, Latin and Greek, taught Science, and served as head of the Science Department. But, mostly he is remembered as Music Director. Born and raised in a family that had made music part of their way of life, his commitment to music made him unforgettable to the dozens of students who were trained in music so effectively. Even decades after graduating from the school, whenever they sing in the church or elsewhere they think about Fr. "Joe" as the person who made them singers. And his congregations remember well his autoharp.

Later, he was a full time Visiting Professor of Religious Studies at Niagara University, staffed by Vincentians, one of the largest Catholic universities in the USA. In a perfect match of skills and interests, he brought his musical spirit to faculty and students as Community Chapel organist and moderator of the Glee Club. In the Spring of 1983, Father Joe became Director of

The House of Studies and Novice Master for Vincentian candidates for the priesthood at Wethersfield, CT. He also taught at Holy Angels Seminary in Cromwell, CT.

Over the years, Father Lachowski continued his academic pursuits in religious and scientific areas. He was an active member of the Catholic Biblical Association of America, for which he reviewed 25 Biblical books. He wrote eight articles for the New Catholic Encyclopedia, and received several National Science Foundation grants to support his development as a science teacher.

In 1987, Father moved to St. Stanislaus Kostka Parish in Brooklyn, NY, as Parochial Vicar. Besides his priestly functions, he worked with the school children's choir and played the organ at Masses. In retirement, he chose to remain at St. Stan's and was chaplain of the St. Aloysius Club, Fatima Society and the Golden Age Club. Despite growing restrictions due to age and infirmity, he continued his lifelong enjoyment of music and sports, and maintained his spiritual vocation.

Wake service:

December 26, 2012 6:00-8:30 PM

Gardenview-Stobierski Funeral Home

161 Driggs Avenue, Brooklyn, NY

(opposite to St. Stanislaus Kostka Church)

Funeral Mass:

December 27, 2012 11:00 AM

St. Stanislaus Kostka Church,

607 Humboldt Street, Brooklyn, NY

Funeral Mass:

December 28, 2012 10:00 AM

St. Joseph Church,

32 Jewett Street, Ansonia, CT

Church Vigil: 8:00 AM – 10:00 AM

Burial:

December 28, 2012 following the Mass in Ansonia

Vincentian Community Plot

St. Michael's Cemetery, Derby, CT