



Rev. Donald George Mainardi

August 22, 1936 - August 28, 2022

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Father Donald Mainardi. Father Donald Mainardi, age 86, passed away in Melbourne Florida in August, 28th, 2022. Father Mainardi was born in Brooklyn, New York the son of Albert and Adeline Mainardi. He is survived by his brother James A. Mainardi. Growing up in Brooklyn, N.Y., Father Mainardi recalled the kind nature of the priests and religious sisters who not only taught him to read and write but also how to truly love God. He entered formation and was Ordained to the Priesthood in the Third Order Regular of St. Francis on June 8, 1963 at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. He furthered his education, studying medical ethics at Marquette University, history and literature at St. John's University in Collegeville, Minn., and sacramental theology at the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago. Father Mainardi ministered to the faithful throughout the Midwest and the eastern United States. He served as a teacher in seminary, high school, college, and nursing schools; as a chaplain in hospitals and the military; and as a parish priest, administrator, director, and pastor.

Father Mainardi arrived in the Diocese of Orlando in 1982 to serve as the director of the San Pedro Spiritual Development Center from 1982-1983. After serving outside the diocese, he returned in 1991 as Parochial Vicar of St. Charles Catholic Parish in Orlando from 1991-1993, Administrator of St. Matthew Catholic Parish in Winter Haven in 1993, then Pastor of St. Charles

Catholic Parish in Orlando from 1993-2000. He became devoted to children and adults with special needs, serving the community of Morning Star School while at St. Charles Parish. He was incardinated into the diocese in 1993. Father Mainardi then served as Pastor of St. John the Baptist Parish in Dunnellon from 2000-2001 followed by Blessed Sacrament Parish in Cocoa from 2001-2003, when he retired. He served on several boards and councils, and after retiring he assisted at St. John the Evangelist Parish in Viera. "It has been a privilege to serve in the fullness of the priesthood," Father Mainardi has said. He was known as a gentleman and a fine preacher to the people of God. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to medical research or Children's charities of your choice.

Previous Events

Funeral Wake

SEP 16. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (ET)

St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church
5655 Stadium Parkway
Melbourne, FL 32940

Funeral Mass

SEP 16. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church
5655 Stadium Parkway
Melbourne, FL 32940

Reception

SEP 16. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church
5655 Stadium Parkway
Melbourne, FL 32940

Interment

SEP 16. 1:30 PM - 2:30 PM (ET)

Priests of the Lord Cemetery
2400 Dike Road
San Pedro Spiritual Development Center
Winter Park, FL 32792

Tribute Wall

NR

“ *Nannete Ruggieri lit a candle in memory of Rev. Donald George Mainardi*



Nannete Ruggieri - September 18, 2022 at 09:23 PM

RB

“ *Rachel Ann Baglivo lit a candle in memory of Rev. Donald George Mainardi*



Rachel Ann Baglivo - September 16, 2022 at 02:09 PM

NR

“*Father Donald was the kindest & most caring person ever! He was a first cousin on my mother’s side as his mom & mine were sisters (Adeline & Teresa Ferrarini).*

I grew up in Brooklyn, NY, in a traditional Italian family, & my parents (Dr. & Mrs. Caesar R. Ruggieri) & Father Donald’s parents were extremely close & often got together. My Aunt Adeline was a proud mother who was always excited to fill us in on the progress of her two sons. She spoke highly of Father Donald’s dedicated ongoings in the Church, especially when he became a Pastor, & of his younger brother, James, who was also enterprising & secured an excellent job in his corporate career. My Uncle Al was just as proud of his two wonderful boys!

Although I was very young, I remember Donald’s Ordination in Washington, DC, & what a spectacular ceremony it was! We were fortunate to have Donald in our family because we felt he was a direct conduit to God Himself which, in our eyes, made us further blessed & a spiritual step ahead to His Divine Kingdom in Heaven.

My favorite memory of my cousin centers on the Holy Sacrament of Baptism. Father Donald was out of town & unable to perform the ceremony for my first son, Brandon, but he made it his business to fly into Fort Lee, New Jersey, where my family resided, in order to baptize my second son, Blake. What a lovely ceremony he performed at the Roman Catholic Church of the Epiphany. We took so many beautiful pictures of Father Donald holding my infant son Blake, & I will always cherish them & the fond memories I have of that sacred day.

Lastly, Father Donald was truly supportive & let us know that we could always call him at any time in the event we were troubled, or just to chat. He was truly a Disciple of God & had a (no pun intended) “God-Given Talent” in putting your mind at ease!

Father Donald, we will always hold your memory in “high esteem”, &

I know your extreme devotion to the Priesthood has earned you a distinguished place up in Heaven with our Holy Father. 🙏 You will surely be missed... Rest In Peace, Cousin! ❤️❤️❤️🌸

With Eternal Love,

Nanette R. Ruggieri-Winick

Brandon & Blake Winick (sons)

Nanette R. Ruggieri-Winick - September 16, 2022 at 12:59 AM

RB

“ *Dearest Father Donald,*

I know that you always held a special place in my Mom's (Aunt Irene) heart. She always spoke about how she adored her visits & phone calls from her nephew the priest. I am sure she was there in Heaven to welcome you home as were your parents Auntie Adeline & Uncle Al. One of my favorite memories is when in 1963, I remember my parents took my sister Francine and I out of school (which to an 11 & 10 yr old was awesome in itself) to go to Washington DC to proudly see our cousin ordained a priest. I was so in awe of that ceremony & I also did have the honor of being invited & attending your retirement ceremony. I remember the outpouring of luv from your family, friends & your congregation. You touched so many lives with your kindness. Your suffering from Parkinson's is now over & you my dear cousin can enjoy the blessings of being in the Lord's loving arms in Heaven.

Unfortunately I know that heartbreak of losing my luv of 20 years to Lewy Body Dementia which is a cross between Parkinson's & Alzheimer's. He was only 62 when he passed. I was his caretaker to the end. He is now at peace for the past 4 years & miss him so. Please continue to pray for all of us still here on Earth. Please give my luv to my Mom & Dad & tell them they are so luv'd & so missed.

Peace & Luv,

your cousin Rachel Platea Baglivo

Rachel Platea Baglivo - September 06, 2022 at 10:56 PM