



Reverend Bernard J. Boff

March 29, 1932 - August 8, 2013

Reverend Bernard J. Boff, age 81, died Thursday, August 8, 2013 at the Ursuline Center where he has resided since 2007. He was born on March 29, 1932, in Defiance, Ohio to Carl and Hazel (Rosselet) Boff.

Father Boff graduated from St. Joseph College, Rennsselear, Indiana with a Bachelor of Arts and received a Masters of Arts in Finance from Northwestern University, Chicago. He completed his seminary studies at St. Mary College, Kentucky and Mount St. Mary's Seminary, Cincinnati.

Father was ordained a priest on August 21, 1961 at St. John Church, Defiance, Ohio. His parish assignments, all in Toledo, were Associate Pastor of St. Patrick of Heatherdowns (1962-1965); Associate Pastor of St. Ann (1965-1970); Pastor of St. Teresa (1970-1987) and Pastor of St Jude (1999-2003). He served as the chaplain for the Ursuline Sisters (1987-1999). He was one of the founders of Central City Ministry of Toledo. He served as the Director of the Bible Center. He was active in the Toledo Metropolitan Missions, Toledo Council of Churches, Catholic Interracial Council of Toledo and NAACP. Father Boff was the co-founder of Claver House. He participated with Dr. Martin Luther King in the march at Selma, Alabama in 1965 as well as Resurrection City in Washington D.C in 1968.

Father Boff served as the Director of the Office of Global Concerns for the Diocese of Toledo (1987-2001). He passionately promoted the Toledo Diocese Mission of Accompaniment in the Diocese of Hwange, Zimbabwe, Africa. He coauthored with Ruth Ann Leidorf the book, Surprises of the Spirit, which described the great faith of the BaTonga people in Zimbabwe.

Father was inducted into St. Joseph College Athletic Wall of Honor 2008 as a member of the champion winning basketball team of 1952-53. The Toledo Area Council of Churches honored him for his outstanding service and commitment to Christian Unity. In 1995 he received the Urban All-American Service Award from CCMT.

Father Boff had a great heart for the poor and the central city. Of his forty-two years of active ministry as a priest thirty-nine were spent serving the poor or the people of the central city. He was a student of the scriptures and wrote the column, Praying the Word, for the Catholic Chronicle (2004-2008) which highlighted the Scriptures of the following Sunday's Mass. He was an avid fisherman and enjoyed playing golf with his brother priests.

Father Boff was preceded in death by his parents Carl and Hazel Boff, his sister Agnes and his brother Robert. He is survived by nieces and nephews, Mary (Richard) Rose, Sue (Ron) Clinger, Teresa (Terry) Johnson, Anthony (Karen) Boff, Margaret (Paul) Chamberlain and Robert (Colleen) Boff; grandnieces and nephews, great grand-nephews and a great grand-niece, his maternal aunt, Frances Rosselet, his brother priests and many friends.

Reception of the Body and Vespers will be Monday, August 12, 2013 at 4:00 p.m. at Our Lady, Queen of the Most Holy Rosary Cathedral, 2535 Collingwood Avenue, Toledo. Visitation will follow at the cathedral until 8:00 p.m. and on Tuesday, August 13, from 9:30-10:45 a. m. The Funeral Mass will take place at 11:00 a.m. with Bishop Leonard Blair as celebrant. Interment will follow in St Stephen Cemetery, The Bend at 3:30 p.m. on August 13, 2013.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made in his name to the Ursuline Sisters, Priests Retirement Fund, or Central City Ministry of Toledo.

Special thanks to the caring and kind staff of the Ursuline Center. Arrangements have been entrusted to Coyle Funeral Home, 419-865-1295. Online condolences can be shared at coylefuneralhome.com

Cemetery Details

St Stephen Cemetery at the Bend

Defiance, OH

Tribute Wall

JB

“*Bernie, I always held you in high regard because you stood up for what you deeply believed. You spoke from your big heart recognizing the poor and their life to survive. You stood and marched for racial equality and made things happen in the diocese as a result.*

There a couple of Big B statements in the past that I can't recall after all these years, but I remember you and loved you for being you amid all the church stuff we were a part of.

Thanks and bless you and all those who have a better life because you spoke up.

John J. Bishop

John and Pat Bishop - August 10, 2013 at 11:45 AM

JB

I remembered your famous saying when we were in Theology together. Now Big B you see and feel to full presence of God in us and all around us and you would say "Let's go to work!"

John Bishop - August 11, 2013 at 02:56 PM