



## Fr. Joseph R. Keating

November 27, 1927 - September 29, 2018

### THE REVEREND JOSEPH ROBERT KEATING

Father Joseph R. Keating, at the age of 90 and a priest for 61 years, died Saturday, September 29, 2018, at the Richland Hospital in Richland Center, Wisconsin.

Joseph Keating was born November 27, 1927, in Boston, Massachusetts to Thomas F. and Anna M. (Ryan) Keating and he suffered the loss of both his parents at the age of 10. He attended Ditson Grade School in Pinehurst, Massachusetts and Howe High School in Billerica, Massachusetts. He joined the U.S. Navy on July 18, 1945, and served until June 16, 1948. When he returned to civilian life, he studied at St. Philip Neri School (For Delayed Vocations). Joseph completed his Bachelors of Arts degree in philosophy at Saint John Seminary in Little Rock, Arkansas in May 1952 and went to Saint John's Seminary in Collegeville, Minnesota for theology. On May 18, 1957, he was ordained a priest at Christ the King Chapel in Holy Cross Seminary in La Crosse by the Most Reverend John P. Treacy.

Father Keating's first assignment began two weeks after ordination as a Temporary Assistant at Saint Joseph Parish in Adams. Four months later, he was assigned as the Assistant at St. Joseph Parish in Stratford. Father Keating was assigned as an Assistant at Holy Trinity Parish in La Crosse in June 1961. In October 1963, he was appointed as Chaplain to the non-Catholic hospitals in La Crosse with residence at St. Thomas More Parish in La Crosse. In September 1964, he was also assigned as the Chaplain to Saint Dominic Monastery in La Crosse. In June 1965, Father Keating was assigned as the Assistant of St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Wisconsin Rapids and two months later he became the Assistant at St. Mary (Immaculate Conception) Parish in Tomah and was soon assigned as the Assistant Chaplain to the Tomah Veterans Administration (V.A.) Hospital. Just fourteen months later he was assigned the Administrator of St. Kevin Parish in Melrose while also being the Chaplain at the Tomah V.A. Hospital and St. Mary's Hospital in Sparta. In the summers of 1963 and 1964, he took courses at Marquette University and Catholic University on scripture, sociology, and moral theology and, in

1968, he took a semester course on pastoral marriage counseling in La Crosse. He was assigned as Chaplain to the following V.A. Hospitals: August 1969- Central Iowa Healthcare System in Knoxville, Iowa; December 1972- Bay Pines Healthcare System in Bay Pines, Florida; May 1974- Canandaigua Medical Center in Canandaigua, New York. In June 1979, Father Keating was assigned as the Pastor of St. Philip Parish in Rolling Ground for eight months and then was assigned Pastor of St. Peter Parish in Middle Ridge. In July 1980, he began work on the Renewal Program in the Diocese of Trenton in New Jersey. In early 1981, he was assigned temporarily to St. Kilian Parish in Blenker until he was assigned as a Chaplain at the Perry Point V.A. Medical Center in Perry Point, Maryland. In 1987, Father Keating became a Chaplain at the Hudson Valley V.A. Health Care System in Castle Point, New York.

For reasons of health, Father Keating was granted senior priest status on September 1, 1992. As a senior priest, he lived in Maryland and Pennsylvania, La Crosse, and Richland Center, Wisconsin.

Father Joseph Keating was preceded in death by his parents and his siblings.

The Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (St. Mary's) Parish in Richland Center on Wednesday, October 3, 2018, at 11:00 a.m. The Most Reverend William Patrick Callahan will be the main celebrant and Reverend Monsignor Roger J. Scheckel will be the homilist. Burial with military honors will follow in St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery in Keyesville, Wisconsin.

Visitation will be held at Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Richland Center on Tuesday, October 2 from 4-7 p.m., with Evening Prayer from the Office of the Dead at 6:00 p.m. There will also be a visitation at the church from 10 a.m. until the time of the Mass on Wednesday.

The Diocese of La Crosse is being assisted by Clary Memorial Funeral Home in Richland Center. [www.clarymemorialfuneralhome.com](http://www.clarymemorialfuneralhome.com)

# Cemetery Details

**St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery, Keyesville**

## Previous Events

### Visitation

OCT 2. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church  
160 West 4th St.  
Richland Center, WI 53581  
(608) 647-2621

### Visitation

OCT 3. 10:00 AM - 10:50 AM (CT)

St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church  
160 West 4th St.  
Richland Center, WI 53581  
(608) 647-2621

### Funeral Mass

OCT 3. 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church  
160 West 4th St.  
Richland Center, WI 53581  
(608) 647-2621

# Tribute Wall

JS

“ My father passed away while I was still in grade school. When I turned 16 and was eligible for a drivers licence I had no one to turn to for practice and testing. Father Keating heard of this and spent time teaching me, with his own car, how to drive (with a stick shift!) He went with me to the Drivers License Test and, by the power of the prayers I am sure he was saying at the time, I passed. His transition out of La Crosse came suddenly and I never got to see him again and to thank him for all these years of successful driving. But he is in my mind often, especially whenever I renew my license. My sincere condolences to his surviving family and to all who knew him closely. A very generous, wonderful man.

James Sheffer

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James Sheffer - October 03, 2018 at 01:36 PM

RM

“ My husband, Tom and I send our sincerest condolences to Fr. Keating's family, friends, religious and clergy. We loved him dearly and will always cherish his holy priesthood that had enriched all our lives here in Pennsylvania and beyond. He had shared with us that Cardinal Burke was his altar boy. Cardinal Burke celebrated the Divine Mercy Sunday at Our Lady of Czestochowa Shrine in Doylestown, PA a few years ago. I waited in line to greet him and kissed his ring and mentioned Fr. Joseph Keating to the Cardinal as being his altar boy. He had remembered Fr. Keating and had a big smile on his face. Requiescat in Pace.

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Rita Smith, M.E.V. - October 02, 2018 at 10:09 PM

RF

“ Father Keating was introduced to me by my brother David, who himself passed away nearly one year ago (October 29, 2017). Father always engaged in discussions with whomever was nearby. I would enjoy the way he would recount his days in the Navy or schooling, etc. and tie a practical life lesson from the perspective and teachings of our Lord. May Father be in the arms of our gracious and merciful Lord, whom he Loved and longed for. Rest in Peace Father. God Bless you.

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Robert Farrell - October 01, 2018 at 03:07 PM