



Monsignor Martin O. Skehan

November 11, 1920 - January 2, 2012

The Reverend Monsignor Martin Oliver Skehan of Moses Lake, a retired priest of the Catholic Diocese of Yakima, died Monday, January 2, at Samaritan Hospital in Moses Lake following a brief illness.

Msgr. Skehan was born November 11, 1920 to Patrick and Helena (Moloney) Skehan in Cloughjordan, County Tipperary, Ireland. He attended seminary at All Hallows College, Dublin, from 1938 to 1944 and was ordained a priest there on June 24, 1944, for service in the Archdiocese of Seattle.

From 1945 to 1949 he served as assistant pastor of Our Lady Star of the Sea Parish in Bremerton, then was named pastor of Holy Trinity Parish in Goldendale, where he served until 1957. He became a priest of the Yakima Diocese when it was formed in 1951 to better serve Catholics in Central Washington.

Msgr. Skehan was pastor of St. Joseph's Parish in Kennewick from 1957 to September of 1972, then pastor of St. Aloysius Parish in Toppenish until August of 1983, when he became pastor of St. Pius X Parish in Quincy. He served as Vicar General of the Diocese in 1975-1976 and 1977-1984. Msgr. Skehan was named a Prelate of Honor, with the title Monsignor, by Pope John Paul II in October 1991. He retired in 1995 and moved to Our Lady of Fatima Parish in Moses Lake.

Msgr. Skehan assisted in that parish, along with Queen of All Saints Parish in Warden, until advancing age required him to move to the Emeritus at

Hearthstone assisted living facility in Moses Lake. There he continued to celebrate Mass and to minister to his fellow residents. When he could no longer drive on his own, he held a raffle for his car to raise money for the diocese's Priest Retirement and Health Fund.

During Msgr. Skehan's final illness, a steady stream of parishioners from Moses Lake, Warden and Quincy came to pray with him at his bedside, a testament to the mutual relationships of love and concern he had developed with the people in the parishes in which he served.

Survivors include two nephews and their spouses, Sean (Norene) Reidy and Martin (Ann) Reidy of Ireland, and their seven children.

Rosary will be prayed at 6:30, Thursday, January 5th followed by the Vigil at 7 p.m. at Our Lady of Fatima Church, 200 N. Dale Rd., in Moses Lake, with the Most Rev. Joseph J. Tyson, Bishop of Yakima, presiding. Viewing will be from 1 to 6:30 p.m. at the church on Jan. 5th. Mass of Christian Burial will be Friday, January 6, at 10:30 a.m., at Our Lady of Fatima, also with Bishop Tyson presiding. The Rite of Committal will take place that afternoon in the Priests Plot at Calvary Cemetery, 1405 S. 24th Ave., Yakima., with the Rev. Msgr. John A. Ecker, Vicar General of the diocese, presiding. Sign the online guestbook at www.kayserschapel.com Arrangements in care of Kayser's Chapel & Crematory.

Donations in Msgr. Skehan's memory may be made to the Diocese of Yakima Priest Retirement and Health Fund, 5301-A Tieton Drive, Yakima, WA 98908. Oral remembrances can be said at the Vigil service on Thursday evening, none will be given during the Mass of Christian Burial on Friday.

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 5. 1:00 PM - 6:30 PM (PT)

Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church
200 N. Dale Road
Moses Lake, WA

Service

JAN 5. 6:30 PM (PT)

Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church (Holy Rosary)
200 North Dale Road
Moses Lake, WA

Service

JAN 6. 10:30 AM (PT)

Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church (Mass of Christian Burial)
200 N. Dale Rd
Moses Lake, WA

Tribute Wall



“ Here was truly the Lord's good and faithful servant. We are so blessed to have had him in our midst. Rest in peace, Msgr. Skehan!###imported-begin##Lois Ferguson###imported-end##

January 08, 2012 at 08:35 PM



“a true servant of God right to his final days when he participated in the Advent Penance Service with his brother priests and the people of God a few days before his hospitalization. His smile lit up the room as did his wonderful stories. He will be missed by many on both sides of the ocean. "Well done good and faithful servant!"###imported-begin##Lynn Stecker###imported-end##

January 08, 2012 at 02:55 AM



“ Rest in Peace, God Bless.###imported-begin##Carlos Reyes III###imported-end##

January 07, 2012 at 02:01 PM



“ Monsignor Skehan will truly be missed, we enjoyed his sense of humor, kindness, and warm heart especially over the last few years, we were honored to have him bless my father during his last few days, then to present my mother with her last rights, what a true gift from Our Heavenly Father Above, Thank You, May God Bless You, Mark and Gayle Hopkins and Family###imported-begin##Mark and Gayle###imported-end##

January 07, 2012 at 12:53 AM



“ We have known Monsignor Skehan from his days @ St. Joseph's, Kennewick and also when he was in Quincy. a great & holy priest.##imported-begin##George & Marjorie Massart##imported-end##

January 05, 2012 at 11:37 PM



“ Monsignor Skehan was not only a testament to his Catholic parishioners, but also reached out to those of other Christian believes. He has blessed me with his prayers and been a gentle encouragement in times of worry and stress. I am not Catholic and never thought that I would in my life have such a sweet friend. He will be missed by many.##imported-begin##Connie Fesler##imported-end##

January 05, 2012 at 09:29 PM



“ Bobbie and I were very honerd to have spent time with Monsignor. We loved him as our Priest and enjoyed the days we drove him to say Mass at other parish church's. He was one of the greatest men of God I've Known. And my friend. We will miss him. You have earned your place in Heaven. God bless. Dan & Bobbie Quick##imported-begin##Dan & Barbara Quick##imported-end##

January 05, 2012 at 08:05 PM



“ *Msgr. Skehan became pastor of St. Joseph's in Kennewick when I was 10. He was there for my confirmation and officiated at my marriage to Frank 44 years ago. His participation in my brother Dave's memorial service 11 years ago was so much appreciated. I remember him fondly.*###imported-begin###Diane (Orthmann) Stone###imported-end##

January 05, 2012 at 06:23 PM



“ *you will always be remembered in our lives as a wonderful and sweet reverend that made us laugh during church and touched our hearts with your kind words. god bless*###imported-begin###brooke gonzales###imported-end##

January 05, 2012 at 06:14 PM



“ *With all our love peace be with you*###imported-begin###DONNIE AND BECKY MERCIER###imported-end##

January 05, 2012 at 05:38 PM



“ *Monsignor, you will be missed for sure, it seemed as if you were always there when every and where ever. God Bless you.*###imported-begin###Mary Talcott###imported-end##

January 05, 2012 at 01:37 PM



“ You will always hold a special place in our hearts. You came to visit me(Val)after surgery and gave me communion and listened to my husbands(Ernie)first confession. I know you will have a special place in heaven.##imported-begin##Valerie and Ernest Lang##imported-end##

January 05, 2012 at 01:23 PM



“ I'll take you back to Dublin with me this spring, Father. We love you!##imported-begin##Cesar and Terese Abreu##imported-end##

January 04, 2012 at 10:32 PM



“ Monsignor Skehan was a part of our family life at Saint Joseph Parish Kennewick for many years. He was truly a servant of and a gift from God. Thank you, God.
May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.
Amen##imported-begin##Doris(Cejka) and Robert Smith##imported-end##

January 04, 2012 at 09:45 PM



“ Monsignor Skehan was one of God's great gifts to his people, a kind and loving Irish Catholic Priest. We know him through his service in Quincy and Moses Lake. He was a great supporter of our 4th Degree Assembly's Charity Golf Tournament for Right to Life, a good golfer, and a pleasure to be around. Our Honor Guard is pleased to be here for our good friend. It's been a pleasure to know him, and he will be missed by everyone who ever met him.##imported-begin##Jim and Dorothy Weitzel##imported-end##

January 04, 2012 at 02:32 PM



“ We are very sad to hear about Fr. Skehan's death. He was a good Pastor and a very good friend while serving at St. Aloysius in Toppenish. I worked for him for almost 11 years as Director of Religion. His devotion to our Blessed Mother was an example to the entire parish. He will be truly missed.##imported-begin##Manuel & Darlene Riojas##imported-end##

January 04, 2012 at 01:18 PM



“ I will cherish the weekly group gatherings held at Barbara Scott's home with Monsignor in attendance. He will be missed by many.##imported-begin##Josephine Dabalos-Stalder##imported-end##

January 04, 2012 at 12:49 PM



“ Monsignor Skehan was a marvelous priest of God. Surely Heaven is thrilled to receive him into the Kingdom. Our prayers for Monsignor's soul are offered.##imported-begin##Mr. and Mrs. W. Dean Gray##imported-end##

January 04, 2012 at 11:08 AM



“ Msgr was a kind and gentle man who was dedicated to helping the sick and poor. Even in his retirement years he continued his efforts to protect the unborn. He loved the Mass like no one else I know, praying it daily. He never forgot his Irish roots. We love him.##imported-begin##Ron and Barbara Bohn##imported-end##

January 04, 2012 at 09:10 AM



“ *he is/was a marvelous man. so caring of others. will certainly miss seeing him.##imported-begin##mary davey##imported-end##*

January 03, 2012 at 10:01 PM



“ *He was our friend,we will remember him alwalys##imported-begin##Tony and Carmen Cardenas##imported-end##*

January 03, 2012 at 07:54 PM