



The Reverend Anthony P. LaFache

October 30, 2019

The Reverend Anthony P. LaFache was called to a fuller life of love, truth, and compassion when he went home to his Lord on Wednesday, October 30, 2019.

Born in Brady Maternal Hospital in Albany, he was the son of the late Anthony P., Sr. and Angeline M. “Angela” (Thomas) LaFache. A graduate of New Hartford High School, he received his Bachelor’s degree in History and English from Utica College of Syracuse University and a Master’s degree in Education Administration. Following a brief period of teaching, Anthony attended Holy Apostles Seminary in Cromwell, CT and St. Bonaventure University where he was ordained to the Catholic priesthood. Rev. LaFache later received a Master’s degree in Divinity from Catholic University. He taught Latin, Sociology, and Religion at Notre Dame High School, and held a pastorate at St. Mary’s Church on South Street. His assignments were successfully served at St. Bartholomew’s Church in Norwich, NY and at St. Matthew’s Church in East Syracuse. He was also very proud of his studies and degree from the Simmons School of Mortuary Science which gave him great insight into a field that he was so passionate about. Rev. LaFache was both Associate Pastor and Pastor at St. Anthony and St. Agnes Church in Utica for over twenty years. He currently was priest in residence at St. Joseph and St. Patrick Church; Father Richard Dellos who was his classmate offered guidance and friendship.

In the words of his dear friend Father Mark Pasik:

Our Lord said “When I was sick you visited me”, and this was one of the hallmark or gifts of God, the Holy Spirit, that was ensued into the Priestly life of Father LaFache. His intense dedication to the patients at MVHS at St. Elizabeth Medical Center under the inspiration of our native Saint, Marianne Cope, became an extended gift of healing for those patients who needed the presence of Christ, the Divine Physician in their lives. Regardless of the time, day or night, Father became available to administer the Sacraments as well as Holy Mass. As a teacher at Notre Dame High School, the qualities of his crystal clear Catholic Faith were also incorporated into the lives of his students who will remember him very well. The commission of a Priest is to preach, teach, and sanctify and was complimented by his intense appreciation for the history, culture, and living Tradition of the Church. One could say that he was called unsteady in his faith in Christ in the midst of a chaotic new century, but that is to say he preached Christ fully in season and out of season as holy scripture directs. He will be affectionately remembered by his brother Priests as being caring, sympathetic, and intelligent in his conversations with an ability to listen rather than hear.

He is now reunited with his sister, Elizabeth Anne LaFache, infant sister, Christine LaFache, and his brother, Louis Charles LaFache, all who preceded him. He leaves his aunts, Constance “Connie” Cooper, Geraldine Dinardo, and Mary Consola; many cousins, especially acknowledging Paul Taylor LaFache, Theresa Custodero Tripolone (Carmen N. Tripolone 5/16/2018), Anthony J. LaFache, Esq. (Linda M. LaFache 12/26/2018), Elizabeth L. and Ronald Sacco; Mel Lanci, Gerry Caropreso; and the Dinardo, Thomas, and King cousins; as well as second cousins who he adored; his many Godchildren including Joseph Dinardo; nieces and nephews, Louis C. LaFache, Jr., Kristen and William Claudio, Sandi and Eric Altman, and Robert Almond; great-nieces, great-nephews; and his sister-in-law, Fran LaFache. Rev. LaFache will be remembered by his countless friends including Patricia “Pat” Bennett, David Piacentino, the Saturday evening priest group especially Rev. Richard Dellos, Rev. Joseph Zareski, Rev. Joseph Moskal, Rev. John

Mikalajunas, Rev. Mark Pasik, Rev. John Quinn, Rev. David Sambor, Rev. Donald Hebert, Rev. Michael Bundz, and always kept in his heart the memory of Msgr. William Donovan, Msgr. Hayes, and Msgr. John Flanagan. He was predeceased by his uncles and aunts, Louis F. and Dorothy (Robinson) LaFache, and Charles and Betty Motta; and cousins, Louis Francis LaFache, Jr., and Ricky Moskal.

Visitation will be held on Wednesday from 4-7 at St. Joseph and St. Patrick Church, 702 Columbia Street, Utica, NY 13502. Vigil Services for Deceased Priest will be held at the conclusion of visitation. Rev. LaFache's Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Thursday morning at 11:00 at St. Joseph and St. Patrick Church officiated by Most Reverend Bishop Douglas J. Lucia. Entombment will take place in the Private Family Mausoleum at their convenience. Arrangements have been entrusted to the Eannace Funeral Home, Inc., 932 South St., corner of Hammond Ave.

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 6. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

St. Joseph & St. Patrick Church
702 Columbia Street
Utica, NY

Funeral Service

NOV 7. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Joseph & St. Patrick Church
702 Columbia Street
Utica, NY

Tribute Wall

RH

“ *Fr Lafache was a Holy Priest, a good example of what a Priest should be. Fr Lafache, please pray for us all.* ”

Robert Hennessy - August 05, 2024 at 02:46 PM

MT

“ *I remember the good times in Norwich.Father became a member of our family. Fun at Chenango Lake, My brother and his friend were always picking on Father.I will miss my "brother" always.* ”

Margaret Taranto - April 01, 2020 at 10:58 PM

TD

“ *The DiNigro's lit a candle in memory of The Reverend Anthony P. LaFache* ”



The DiNigro's - November 25, 2019 at 11:06 AM

CS

“ *Charleen Sangiacomo lit a candle in memory of The Reverend Anthony P. LaFache* ”



charleen sangiacomo - November 06, 2019 at 08:57 PM

CS

My sincere condolences to the LaFache family. It was an honor to have known Father for 50 + years. I will always remember the many years I spent at your house hanging out with your sister. You were always there for me and my family. From marrying us 45 years ago and not hesitating to take the trip to Saratoga to marry my son & daughter in law when asked. You were a family friend and a wonderful priest who truly cared about people. Rest in peace Father with our good Lord, and with your wonderful parents, sister and brother, as you are all reunited. Say hi to my Mom as she also loved you. You will be missed. Thank you for your service.

charleen sangiacomo - November 06, 2019 at 09:28 PM

AK

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Anthony, Gina Hensel and kids - November 06, 2019 at 07:06 PM

AK

“ *Father was a gifted man, a true holy priest who had a special devotion to the Lord. Just knowing he was a phone call away brought you much comfort. My family looked forward to seeing him at weekly mass, his sermons, his hugs and handshakes, his words of encouragement and the endearing words of wisdom. He would often bring our kids into the St. Marianne Cope book store and give them little religious gifts that they enjoyed. The world is an emptier place without him, but we now have an angel praying for us. Thank you Father for your friendship and for helping us strengthen our faith in God.*



Anthony, Gina Hensel and kids - November 06, 2019 at 06:58 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of The Reverend Anthony P. LaFache.*



November 06, 2019 at 02:15 PM



“ *Father LaFache will be greatly missed and fondly remembered for his many gifts; not the least of which were his deep compassion and grace as a servant of Our Lord. He has spoken often of his love and loss of members of his own family who have gone before him and with whom he is now joyfully reunited. Rest easy in the arms of Our Lord good and faithful servant. You are home.*

Sharon Hickey - November 05, 2019 at 09:16 PM



“ *Deepest condolences to the family of Rev. LaFache. He will be fondly remembered for his compassion and his marvelous serums .
Sincerely
Ann DeNigro and family—RIP Reverend!*

A. DeNigro - November 05, 2019 at 04:40 PM



“ *Rose Brooks lit a candle in memory of The Reverend Anthony P. LaFache*



Rose Brooks - November 05, 2019 at 09:09 AM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of The Reverend Anthony P. LaFache.*



November 04, 2019 at 11:46 AM



“ *My wife and I along with our entire family, extend our deepest sympathy to the LaFache family . Father was a great priest and dear friend of mine during my years of practice in Utica. I will never forget him. He was an exemplary priest who has now obtained his eternal reward. May he Rest In Peace.*

*Anthony N Dardano, MD
Medical Director Delray Medical Center
Associate Dean for Academic Affairs
Charles Schmidt College of Medicine
Florida Atlantic University
Boca Raton, FL*

Dr Anthony Dardano - November 03, 2019 at 08:56 PM



“ *To the family of Father LaFache. Please accept my deepest condolences. I hope your wonderful memories will help you through this sadness.*

Donna pedone-Merhib

Donna Pedone Merhib - November 03, 2019 at 01:41 PM

DM

“ *Donna Pedone Merhib lit a candle in memory of The Reverend Anthony P. LaFache*



Donna Pedone Merhib - November 03, 2019 at 01:38 PM

PR

“ *Remembering Father LaFache in a very special way as he touched so many of us in his devotion to his Sunday Masses, his healing masses and his sermons that reached out to all of us with life's daily problems.*

Peggy Reginelli

Peggy Reginelli - November 03, 2019 at 01:22 PM

BN

“ *Bill Niermeyer lit a candle in memory of The Reverend Anthony P. LaFache*



Bill Niermeyer - November 03, 2019 at 12:21 PM

BN

“ *Rest in eternal peace, Father LaFache. Good and faithful servant of the Lord. My sincere sympathy to your family. Thank you for your service.*

Bill Niermeyer - November 03, 2019 at 12:20 PM

CC

“ Chris Conway lit a candle in memory of The Reverend Anthony P. LaFache



Chris Conway - November 03, 2019 at 11:31 AM

AH

“ I fondly remember Fr LaFache. From him working at UCA to being a friend to my great aunts, Kay & Anna Dardano. He always held a special place in my heart. RIP and say hello to my family.

Annette Martellotto Hawkins

Annette Martellotto Hawkins - November 03, 2019 at 10:58 AM

AF

“ I will be eternally grateful to you, Father LaFache, for your kindness and support for my family during the time you were at St. Mary's.

Anne Fletcher - November 03, 2019 at 09:35 AM



“ Rosa Morales lit a candle in memory of The Reverend Anthony P. LaFache



Rosa Morales - November 03, 2019 at 08:58 AM

LH

“ *Father LaFache, the very special priest who was always there for everyone. When my Dad passed away he became so close to our family. Over the years he helped us all so much. He was amazing, never too busy to stop and listen no matter where he was. May you Rest In Peace Father and I hope you know how many people will truly miss you.*

Lois Hoyle - November 03, 2019 at 06:00 AM

FD

“ *Father LaFache is a man everyone loved. He always had time to stop in his tracks to talk to you, even when he was in a hurry. (which he always was)..Answered calls in the middle of the night when no other priest would. He gave great homilies at Mass-got carried away with them sometimes, but always made up for it. .AND he loved everyone no matter who or what they were. He was & is still in our hearts. St Anthony's lost a great priest when he left. It is very hard for any other to fill his shoes.*

Fran Duquette - November 03, 2019 at 12:22 AM

FS

“ *Dear Father LaFache was always near & dear to us during the Loss of our three children. My husband & my surviving children at St Anthony school. He will always be remembered at St Anthony's church & festivals. Rest in Peace Fran Spinelli.*

francine spinelli - November 02, 2019 at 09:54 PM



“ *Charlene Harris lit a candle in memory of The Reverend Anthony P. LaFache*



Charlene Harris - November 02, 2019 at 09:27 PM



“ *Andrea Raiano-Hedrick lit a candle in memory of The Reverend Anthony P. LaFache*



Andrea Raiano-Hedrick - November 02, 2019 at 06:14 PM



“ *When Father LaFache was at St. Barts in Norwich, I remember him coming to our house and spending time with my parents. it stuck with me all these years, I was a little girl but I remember this well. may you find the peace you need to help you through this emotional time. Karen Tucker Blenco*

Karen Tucker - November 02, 2019 at 05:38 PM

SC

“ Condolences to the LaFache family. He was a wonderful priest and had time for everyone. Our family will miss him terribly. Take care of our family in heaven - my mother will be glad to see you - she loved you and you loved her. We were so fortunate to have you in our lives.



Jerry and Sandy Massocco Claeys and family

Sandra Claeys - November 02, 2019 at 05:06 PM

LM

“ Father LaFache was a wonderful priest and human being. He married us 30 years ago at St Mary's and became our friend. His sermons were always about the real world and the struggles we go thru. If you ever needed him, he was a phone call away. Every Christmas his gift from us would be a Barnes and Noble gift card. He loved to gain knowledge thru reading. God Bless you Father Anthony LaFache.....

LouAnn Beratta-Mandronico

LouAnn Mandronico - November 02, 2019 at 05:04 PM

MA

“ Our sincere condolences to the LaFache family. We frequently attended St. Mary's when Father was there to listen to his unique sermons.

Ron and Martha Mancuso

Martha - November 02, 2019 at 04:42 PM

AL

“ Amber Lynn lit a candle in memory of The Reverend Anthony P. LaFache



amber lynn - November 02, 2019 at 01:19 PM

AL

“ I am so thankful to have met you and have you be my priest to do my first communion and my confirmation, and just been able to listen to you preach at church! you were a wonderful kind soul and I am saddened to see you leave this earth so soon. May you Rest In Peace you sweet soul!

amber lynn - November 02, 2019 at 01:18 PM

NH

“ May you Rest In Peace father Lafache. You will be missed friend you had a big heart and always made time for everyone. Thank you for all you have done. You will be missed by many your talks your smile. Always new what to say when life would get the best of me. I hope you are up with the angels and in peace now with god. Rest In Peace. My condolences go out to the Lafache family. God bless

nate H - November 02, 2019 at 01:05 PM

RB

“ Rosemary Brown lit a candle in memory of The Reverend Anthony P. LaFache



Rosemary Brown - November 02, 2019 at 11:42 AM

RB

“ Thank you Father for all you have done for so many. You will be truly missed.

Rest In Peace beautiful soul

Rosemary Brown - November 02, 2019 at 11:42 AM

GC

I was a first cousin of Father Anthony growing up with him we had so much fun I remember my grandmother had a second story home and going up the stairs was a shadow box window that went into her kitchen and he would hear are confession and Bless is at the end he had a calling back when he was a young boy and so much fun and in the summer when he used to come to my grandmother's camp he would play the record player and we would dance so many memories he was such a beautiful person the Lord to him home he had other plans for him Thank You Father for being our cousin a son a brother may you Rip 🙏❤️

Geri Parese first cousin - November 02, 2019 at 01:14 PM

JC

“ My very heartfelt sympathy to the entire LaFache family for the loss of our wonderful priest and friend.

Father LaFache meant so much to so many. He guided me through the loss of my beautiful daughter Dana Lynn who insisted I meet “ her” special Father LaFache only days before losing her. Little did I know he would end up being one of the strongest spiritual guides I'd be blessed to have by my side when my world fell apart.

You were a blessing to so many families and friends and my prayer is you are now enjoying the peace and happiness by Our Father's side. May you continue to guide and watch over us always. Rest in Peace 🙏

Jeanne Castronovo and Family

Jeanne Castronovo - November 02, 2019 at 11:05 AM

RP

“ *Father LaFache was a priests, priest and truly a servant of God. When our daughter passed away 2/26/14, Father was there for our family making many visits to the Hospital and we were honored to have Father celebrate her funeral Mass at St. Joes-St. Pats. We were his parishioners at St. Anthony's and felt the Presence of God at each Mass. His sermons were uplifting, spiritual and meaningful. When he prayed over us at Healing Services we really felt the presence of Jesus especially when Father Blessed us with the Monstrance. Father we will miss you so much. He gave all of himself for others. We are sure Jesus said to you, "Well done my good and faithful servant, enter into the joy of your Lord". We love you and will always miss you so much. Please say hi to Deanna. and please pray for us. Your faithful friends, Rosemarie and Ralph Paladino*



Ralph Paladino - November 02, 2019 at 10:47 AM

KM

“ *Dear Father was a true inspiration to us all. We love you. Home but never forgotten. Well done, good and faithful servant. 💖*

Kathleen and Gordon Morrock - November 02, 2019 at 10:27 AM

FS

“ *May Father LaFache Rest In Peace 🙏❤️*

Francine Sansone - November 02, 2019 at 09:52 AM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of The Reverend Anthony P. LaFache.*



November 02, 2019 at 09:26 AM



“ *Father LaFache was always there for me and my family. You were a great friend and priest. You had away with your sermons that every mass I walked away with a learning experience. You will forever be missed.*

Deanna DePalma Alpaugh

Deanna DePalma Alpaugh - November 02, 2019 at 09:17 AM

GD

“ *Father Lagatch drew everyone he knew or met to our lord +savour, he worked tiredlesly to serve all Even after providing services to the entire St Elidabiths hospital! He never said no to anyone +donated his time mostly to attend the healing prayed with Emma!he touched lives in Canada, the Philapenes China +tryout the US! I thought of him as my brother +I'll forever be lost without him a call a way! He was the truest sense of a priest I've ever met+he touched all of the lives that heard his voice, convulse all of us +went far beyond what was expected by Abs, as he looked at us all as one family +overlooked the flaws of many +there unnecessary disputes among themselves, this is not God's will but we all know Jesus came to help the sinner's as we are! My heart brakes for our tremendous loss+ the only concert I have is that I hope I'm good enough to see him once again with ABA, because he belongs to God as he has shown us in his life? The article distress him terribly as he spoke about it the evening before he passed, it was no more than his effort to properly do his bookkeeping correctly, that he really needed help with but once again he was selfless +wouldn't burden us to help him! My respect +love eteraly his Amen Gigi*

Gigi Dinardo - November 02, 2019 at 08:22 AM

AS

“ *Anna Sardina lit a candle in memory of The Reverend Anthony P. LaFache*



Anna Sardina - November 02, 2019 at 07:41 AM

SP

“ *Father LaFache, when I had surgery a few years ago my first request was to ask for you to visit me and receive your blessing. You meant the world to my family and me. You are home. Pray for us in heaven. God bless*

Sylvia Pescatore - November 02, 2019 at 07:39 AM

MC

“ *Dear Father Lafache, thank you for everything you have ever done for all of us. We'll miss you*



Mary Converse - November 02, 2019 at 02:44 AM

PM

“ *Our Spiritual guide, teacher, friend. Remembering the days at St. Mary's on South Street and weekly healing masses where we spent hours in prayer and worship. Our many out of town healing masses where our healing ministry were like family, bringing hope and encouragement to those in need. Father never stopped ministering to others. Our pilgrimage to Medjugorie and sharing the miracle of the sun. The laughter and tears shared with family and friends. May you be once again be united with your family and special canine friends. Say "Hi" to Jerry, hug your mom for me and kiss Toto. You will be missed and I thank you for our many years of friendship. God has a special place for you.*



Penny Mahar - November 02, 2019 at 12:29 AM



“ *Always selfless - always there for EVERYONE - devoted to his calling 24/7- Always made me feel special- could make me really laugh out loud with his stories - will miss him so much...God bless you Father - rest in God and enjoy the loved ones you missed dearly - Happy Reunion to you! xoxo💕💕*

Deborah Sullivan - November 01, 2019 at 10:22 PM

AS

“ Father,

We will never forget the beautiful weddings, baptisms and funerals you performed for our family so many times. All done with love and devotion, having your faith present at every turn. Having you in our lives was a blessing and having you apart of our family, at our table was a joy.

I will personally never forget the brown, tattered altar server robe I wore as a kid, standing next to you every weekend at St. Anthony's. Marching in those beautiful processions and leading amazing novenas and holiday masses all while hearing a beautiful choir sing every song you asked for. Knowing how much you loved your Latin, they made sure to always deliver.

Thank you for being a wonderful man. You were always there for everyone whenever they called, needed spiritual guidance or just needed a friend.

I thank you for your unending loyalty to our family and your prayers for us. I thank you for the memories and the laughs in the sacristy. I thank you for your wisdom and truth.

Most of all we thank God we got to have so many years knowing you and calling you our friend.



Adrienne Sniezek - November 01, 2019 at 09:41 PM

BP

“ *My son and I are heart broken. Father LaFache was there for us when my husband was sick and dying. My son Antonio was his first Altar boy at St Anthony's Church. He wore his Yankee sweatshirt proudly that Antonio give him for a Christmas gift. They always joked with each other on the Altar too. Rest in Peace now your mother is with you now.*

Beverly Poccia - November 01, 2019 at 09:29 PM



“ *Father, your private talks and guidance you had with Chris and I will never be forgotten! The visits to your home after Chris mowed the lawn will be something we always cherish. Your winks to say hi in the pews as church service ended will always be remembered! You have made a big impact on my husband throughout his life from childhood to adulthood , and that is something that he will forever be grateful! Rest in peace Father Lafache!*



Many hugs, love and blessings to his family ... he spoke very highly of everyone! He will be greatly missed!

Jess Bussonnais - November 01, 2019 at 09:07 PM

CC

“ I am so grateful that I was blessed to see Father Lafache one last time a couple of months ago at a Catholic gathering and to publicly thank him for being the catalyst to initiate healing services in Utica which led me to a beautiful, deep relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ. His compassion and love to reach out to those who were crippled in body, mind and spirit, to lead them to Jesus in healing was his passion. Thank you again, Father, for changing my life and pointing me to our Lord. May you find the eternal peace you so deserve.

Cathy Conklin - November 01, 2019 at 08:23 PM

JJ

“ To the LaFache Family:

“When I was sick you visited me”

Father ministered to many of or family members during their last moments on earth. His gift from God of bringing comfort to the dying and their families was well known.

We will pray for him always.



Janice and Samuel L. Russo, Jr. - November 01, 2019 at 04:31 PM

TF

“ Father is now in the arms of Abba and reunited with all his departed loved ones.



Tim & Colleen Moylan Family - November 01, 2019 at 04:10 PM