



James O'Connell

February 1, 2014

James Francis O'Connell

8/22/1919 – 02/01/2014 James Francis O'Connell died peacefully in the Lord on Feb. 1, 2014 at the Brookside Village in Jasper, Indiana. He was born on August 22, 1919 at Terre Haute, Indiana to James F. and Olga (Warner) O'Connell. He graduated from Columbus High School in Columbus, Ohio. He became a practicing Catholic through the influence of a friend his senior year in high school. His fervor for Catholicism led him to enroll at St. Meinrad Archabbey to study for the diocesan priesthood for the Archdiocese of Indianapolis in 1938. He was required to repeat his senior year of high school because of his limited Latin background. He searched a call to a penitential life and left St. Meinrad after one year and entered Gethsemani from 1939-1940. He was given the monastic name of Baldwin. Reverend Dom Frederick Dunn was the abbot at that time. After a year at Gethsemani my father returned to St. Meinrad from 1940-1944. Bishop Joseph Ritter was the bishop of Indianapolis at that time. My father left St. Meinrad in 1944 and re-enrolled at Gethsemani for several months. It was during this period that my father met Thomas Merton. Thomas Merton was in simple vows and my father was in the novitiate. He left Gethsemani in 1944 and on June 23, 1945 he found his vocation and married his childhood sweetheart Racine V. O'Connell. He retired from the Rockport Power Plant in Rockport, Indiana. He was the assistant chief construction electrician. He retired after 32 years with the power company. He married Racine V. Rochester from Logan, Ohio on June

23, 1945. They were married 68 years. She survives her husband along with 8 children (Pat, Therese, Mike, Kathleen, Katie, Jim, Dan, and Kevin O'Connell.) The children and spouses live in the following areas; Pat and his wife Linda in Terre Haute, Indiana. Therese and Bob Hochstetler in Jasper, Indiana. Kathleen and John Abernathy in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Mike and Linda O'Connell in Springville, Indiana, Katie O'Connell in Bloomington, Indiana, Jim and Louise in Paoli, Indiana, Dan and Ann O'Connell in Portage, Michigan and Kevin and Janet O'Connell in Elk River, MN. They have many grandchildren and great grandchildren. His motto was "Deus Est." and God Alone. May he rest in the peace of God who he sought his entire life. The funeral mass will be celebrated by Fr. Joe Moriarty at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Jasper, Indiana at 10:00 am. Friday, (February 7, 2014, with burial to follow in Fairview Cemetery in Jasper. Visitation is 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. Thursday evening and Friday morning 9:00 – 9:30 am at the Becher - Kluesner North Chapel, 3221 N. Newton Street, Jasper, Indiana 47546 In lieu of flowers the family request that you donate to the monks of St. Meinrad, Gethsemani, and the Carmelite Sisters of Terre Haute.

Tribute Wall



“ James O'Connell

January 01, 2023 at 10:54 AM



“ Racine, Jim, and family: I have known your dad for over 30 years -- and came to love him. He certainly knew how to "tell it like it is" (at least his version) and remained ever-faithful to his desire for God. What I feel in missing him pales to what all of you are experiencing - - and so my thoughts and prayers are with you.

Rev. Matthew Brumleve - February 06, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ My thoughts and prayers are with you all at this time of your great loss. Mr. "O" was a no nonsense individual and you always knew where you stood with him. My heartfelt condolences to Mrs. "O" and all the family. Carl

Carl J. Pace - February 06, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ I'VE WORKED AT HEARTLAND CARDIOLOGY QUITE A FEW YEARS...NO ONE TOUCHED MY HEART AND FUNNY BONE QUITE LIKE JIM AND RACINE. I TRULY ADORDED THEM AND LOOKED FORWARD TO SEEING THEM. JIM WAS SO AMUSING I ALWAYS TOLD HIM HIS BARK WAS MUCH WORSE THAN HIS BITE. WE ALWAYS LAUGHED ABOUT IT BECAUSE I TOLD HIM HE REMINDED ME OF MY DAD. HIS REPLY WAS HE MUST HAVE BEEN A GREAT GUY. HE'S RIGHT AND I WILL MISS JIM. MY DEEPEST SYMPATHIES.

CARLA - February 03, 2014 at 12:00 AM