



DIOCESE OF ST. PETERSBURG

Office of the Chancellor

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MEMORANDUM

TO: All priests in the Diocese of St. Petersburg,
Pastoral Center, Bethany Center, Calvary Catholic Cemetery
and Spirit FM staff members

FROM: Deacon Rick Wells, J.C.L., Chancellor *R.W.*

RE: Reverend John Joseph Braun, M.Afr.
March 16, 1931 – November 11, 2019

DATE: November 13, 2019



Word has reached the Chancellor's Office regarding the death of **Reverend John Joseph Braun, M.Afr., 88**, on Monday, November 11, 2019, at Bon Secours Maria Manor, St. Petersburg, following a major stroke. Prior to his hospitalization and transfer to nursing care, Father Braun (aka "Father Joe") lived with his fellow Missionaries of Africa at their residence in St. Petersburg for the past 20 years. During that time, he also provided priestly assistance to St. Joseph Parish, St. Petersburg.

Father Braun was born in Buffalo, New York and became a professed member of the Missionaries of Africa in 1956. On April 21, 1957, he was ordained to the priesthood for the community. During his 62 years of priesthood, he served in Malawi, Zambia and in various U.S. cities. During his time in Malawi, he worked as an assistant parish priest, a school chaplain, and a professor in the major seminary in Kachebere, among other assignments. While in Zambia, Father Braun worked as a college chaplain and provided assistance to parishes.

In 1965, Father Braun was elected as Provincial Superior for the Missionaries of Africa in the Americas. He later served as a Provincial Councilor and Director of the community's Development Office. After his return to the U.S. in 1999, he was assigned to the Missionaries' residence in St. Petersburg, where he became a familiar face at St. Joseph Parish and frequently attended the annual Chrism Mass and other diocesan functions.

Funeral services are planned for Tuesday, November 19, 2019 at St. Joseph Catholic Church, 2101 22nd Avenue S., St. Petersburg. Visitation will begin at 9:30 a.m., followed by a Funeral Mass at 10:30 a.m. Burial will take place on Wednesday, November 20, 2019, 10:30 a.m. at Calvary Catholic Cemetery, 5233 118th Ave N., Clearwater.

Please keep Father Braun's surviving family members and his Missionaries of Africa confreres in your kind thoughts and prayers, as they recall with fondness the life of their beloved brother.

"I have competed well; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith" – 2 Timothy 4:7