



## 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

FROM: Deacon Rick Wells, J.C.L.,  
Chancellor for Canonical Affairs *RW*

RE: Death of Rev. Msgr. Frank M. Mouch

DATE: April 20, 2026



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The Chancellor's Office has learned of the passing of **Monsignor Frank Messmann Mouch, 93**, into eternal life on Thursday, April 16, 2026, while under Hospice care at the St. John XXIII Retirement Residence, in Lutz, following a steady decline in health in recent months.

Monsignor Mouch was born on July 25, 1932, in Sandusky, Ohio. He graduated from high school at the Pontifical College Josephinum, in Worthington, Ohio, where he would also complete his undergraduate studies in Philosophy and his graduate studies in Theology, earning a Master of Divinity degree. He was ordained on June 10, 1958, for the Diocese of St. Augustine.

Following his ordination, Monsignor Mouch remained at the Josephinum, where he served on faculty from 1958 to 1963. The following year, he enrolled in the University of Florida, in Gainesville, earning a Master of Education degree in 1965. Seven years later, he was granted a sabbatical leave to begin studies at the University of St. Thomas Aquinas (“Angelicum”) in Rome, where he earned a Licentiate in Sacred Theology in 1973, after which he returned to the Josephinum, serving as Rector from 1974 to 1984. In April 1975, he was named as a “Prelate of Honor,” and was granted the honorary title of “Monsignor” by Pope Paul VI.

Upon the establishment of the Diocese of Saint Petersburg on June 17, 1968, Monsignor Mouch was incardinated as a priest of our diocese, and in 1984, when the Diocese of Venice was established, he was incardinated as a priest of the Venice Diocese while continuing to reside locally.

Over the years, Monsignor Mouch has served as temporary Administrator and Pastor for parishes throughout the Dioceses of St. Augustine, Saint Petersburg, and Venice, including a brief stint as Administrator of the Cathedral of St. Jude the Apostle, St. Petersburg. From 1987 to 1996, he

served as President of Saint Leo College (now Saint Leo University). He has also worked as Assistant Chancellor of the Diocese of St. Augustine, Director of Campus Ministry for the University of Florida, Superintendent of Catholic Education for the Diocese of St. Petersburg, and Director of Communications, Planning, Development, and Building for the Diocese of Venice.

From 1999 until his retirement in 2002, Monsignor Mouch served the Diocese of Saint Petersburg as its Secretary for Pastoral Programs, providing guidance and theological consultation to its fledgling Lay Pastoral Ministry Program. His efforts helped in constructing a firm foundation for the program, from which many lay ministers have graduated.

In the years following his retirement, Monsignor Mouch continued to provide priestly assistance to parishes as needed and has served on various boards for the Diocese of Saint Petersburg, including the Priestly Growth and Enrichment Commission. For years, he provided ministry to the faithful of St. Mary Parish, Tampa, until June 2021. He was also among the initial residents and a champion of the St. John XXIII Retirement Residence, encouraging his brother priests to live together in community during their retirement years. In addition, he was a strong and generous supporter of the Center for Catholic-Jewish Studies at Saint Leo University.

Monsignor Mouch was preceded in death by his parents, Charles and Eleanor (Messman) Mouch, brother Charles Mouch, and sister Mary Ann Hoscheidt. He is survived by his sisters, Christine (Don) Del Ponte and Barbara Hamilton, along with nieces, nephews, and other extended family members.

**All funeral services will be held at the Cathedral of St. Jude the Apostle, 5815 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue N., St. Petersburg and will be as follows:**

**Visitation: Thursday, May 7, 2026, 5:00-7:00 p.m.; Evening Prayer at 7:00 p.m.**

**Funeral Mass: Friday, May 8, 2026, 11:00 a.m.**

**Burial will immediately follow at Calvary Catholic Cemetery, 5233 118th Avenue N., Clearwater.**

Expressions of sympathy made be sent to the Family of Msgr. Frank Mouch, c/o Diocese of St. Petersburg, Office of the Chancellor, P.O. Box 40200, St. Petersburg, FL 33743-0200.

Please keep Monsignor Mouch's family members and loved ones in your kind thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

***“Well done, good and faithful servant...Come, share your master's joy.” – Matthew 25:21***