

DIOCESE OF ST. PETERSBURG

Office of the Chancellor

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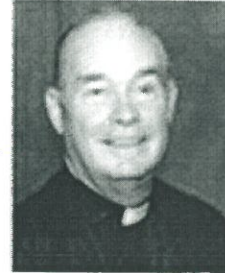
MEMORANDUM

TO: Pastors and Parish Staff Members
in the Diocese of St. Petersburg

FROM: Deacon Rick Wells, J.C.L., Vice-Chancellor 

RE: Reverend James Cottrell
March 4, 1931 – March 19, 2017

DATE: March 30, 2017



Reverend James Maurice Cottrell, 86, a retired priest of the Diocese of St. Petersburg, passed away peacefully at his home in Gainesville, Florida on March 19, 2017, following a long battle with cancer.

“Father Jim” was one of five children born in Cadillac, Michigan to Cecil and Emma Cottrell. Following his graduation from high school, he spent several years with the Camaldolese Benedictine Monks, living in Arezzo, Italy and Big Sur, California. He completed his theological studies at St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary, in Boynton Beach, Florida, was ordained to the presbyterate on May 25, 1968, for the Diocese of Ponce, Puerto Rico and was subsequently incardinated into the fledgling Diocese of St. Petersburg. Father Cottrell was a member of the first ordination class from St. Vincent de Paul Seminary.

During his 48 years of priestly ministry, Father Cottrell served as parochial vicar of Holy Cross and Holy Family Parishes, St. Petersburg, and St. Charles Borromeo Parish, Port Charlotte. In 1973, he was appointed as pastor of Our Lady of Fatima Parish, Inverness, where he served until 1981. Father Cottrell later moved to Gainesville, where he cared for his widowed mother until her death. During his time there, he provided pastoral assistance to the parish communities of St. Madeleine, High Springs and San Juan Mission, Branford.

A Funeral Mass was held on March 24th, at St. Madeleine Catholic Church, in High Springs, Florida. Father Cottrell was interred in the parish’s Memorial Garden. In lieu of flowers, donations to the St. Madeleine Faith and Vision Campaign are being accepted.

A Memorial Mass for Father Cottrell will be held on Wednesday, April 26th, 11:00 a.m., at Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church, 550 U.S. Highway 41 South, Inverness. Priests who wish to concelebrate are asked to bring an alb and white stole.

In addition, he will be remembered at the next Month’s Mind Mass, on Saturday, April 29th, 10:00 a.m., at Calvary Catholic Cemetery, 5233 118th Avenue North, Clearwater, where his name will be inscribed in the cemetery’s cenotaph.

Please keep Father Cottrell’s brothers, Tom and Peter, his family members and loved ones in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace!