



Bishop Albert H. Ottenweller

April 15, 1916 - September 23, 2012

Bishop Albert H. Ottenweller, retired Bishop of Steubenville, Ohio, was welcomed into the eternal love of God, Sunday morning, September 23, 2012 at the Ursuline Center, Toledo, OH. During his short sickness, he was surrounded by family, friends and the loving care of the Center's community and staff.

Bishop was born April 5, 1916 in Stanford, Montana to his late parents, Charles and Mary (Hake). He is survived by his sisters, Joan Pfahler, (Richard), Phyllis Lowry (Richard, deceased) Rosaline Buescher (Robert, deceased), Jane Brandt (Richard), an adopted sister. He is preceded in death by his sisters, Sister Mary Jogues, SND, Beatrice and brother, Raymond and by his nephews Richard Pfahler (dec.), William Pfahler (Lorene), Thomas Pfahler (Mary), Christopher Pfahler (Amy) Richard Lowry (Jody), Michael Lowry (Connie), Steven Lowry, William Buescher, (Dreama), John Buescher (Ann), Robert Buescher (Patti). Nieces; Sister Diane Pfahler SND, Sister Mary Dean SND, Rose Christy (Kenneth), Mary George (Jack), Patricia Maman (Terry deceased), Mary Kay Lowry, Marie Recker (Dennis), Jane Hartley (Steve deceased), Margaret Nadolny (Christopher). In addition the Bishop has many great nephews and nieces. Also the Bishop treasured his friendship with his Aunts and Uncles, Edwin and Edith Ottenweller (deceased) Fran and Rosa Ottenweller (deceased) and cousins in Ft. Wayne.

Because of his welcoming personality, the Bishop has friends and created

family in every place he served, lived or traveled. He is also survived by dear friends, Fr. John Blaser, Fr. Bill Parker, Fr. Tom Wehinger and Sr. Nancy Westmeyer.

He attended St. Mary Elementary School of Leipsic, St. Joseph High School and St. Joseph College, both in Renssaler, IN. He received degrees in Philosophy and Theology from the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. in 1943.

He was ordained a priest on June 19, 1943 for the Diocese of Toledo by the late Most Reverend Karl Alter. On April 23, 1974, Pope Paul VI named him the first Auxiliary Bishop of the Toledo Diocese and he was ordained bishop by Bishop John Donovan May 29, 1974. In October, 1977, he became the Second Bishop of the Diocese of Steubenville, Ohio and served there until his retirement in March 1992.

As a young priest associate he served at St. John's Delphos, Ohio 1943-1959, St. Richard Parish, Swanton, Ohio 1959-61. As pastor he served St. Joseph Parish, Blakeslee, Ohio and Sacred Heart in Montpelier, Ohio 1961-62. At Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Bono, Ohio 1962-68. At St. John's Delphos, Ohio 1968-76. At St. Michael's Findlay, Ohio 1976 to October of 1977 when appointed Bishop of Steubenville.

During these forty-nine years of ministry, Bishop Ottenweller was one who not only served the people but lead them to be fully active in the ministry of the church. He understood that each person had a call to live out their faith for the good of others. This spirit was manifested in many ways as a pastoral leader. He worked among the migrant people of NW Ohio seeking their basic needs and justice in the work place. He supported and encouraged young priests to learn Spanish and called many religious sisters to the work of Pastoral Care and religious education for Migrants and their families.

As a young pastor he encouraged parishioners' involvement. In Mount Carmel, Bono, he involved people in the building of Church to facilitate their full and active participation in the spirit of Vatican II renewal of the liturgy. He had special interest in helping pastors to be more collaborative with their parishioners when organized the Alliance of Pastors both in the Toledo and Steubenville Dioceses. This passion for the laity's roll in the church was recognized on a national level as he served as chairman of the National Conference of Bishop's Laity Committee and member of the Ad Hoc Committee on Parish Renewal. He used this spirit of lay involvement when he called for a Diocesan Synod in 1983 for the Diocese of Steubenville which included both lay, religious and clergy participation.

These interests did not cease in retirement when he joined with long time friend Sister Nancy Westmeyer in the work of Vision Time and Servant Leadership. Both of these efforts resulted in countless classes, retreats and workshops both here in Toledo Diocese and other dioceses, parishes and associations. Their goal was to help oepole live out their call to be disciples of Jesus as one who came to serve and not be served.

Reception of the Body will take place at 4 pm Tuesday Sept 25th in St. Martin de Porres Church, Toledo followed by a wake service at 6: 30 p.m. The body will lie in state for visitation at Rosary Cathedral, Collingwood Blvd., Wednesday from 3 p.m. until a Mass at 6:30 p.m. A Vespers Service will take place Thursday at 7 p.m. in Holy Name Cathedral, Steubenville and the funeral liturgy will be celebrated at 11 a.m. Friday, September 28th. Interment will be Saturday, September 29th at 11 a.m. in St. Mary's Cemetery Leipsic, Ohio. It is Bishop's desire that any contributions be given in his memory to the continuation of the Servant Leadership, 1618 Sylvania Ave., Toledo, OH 43612

Tribute Wall

SG

“ Dear Bishop Al...not a day goes by that I don't have some precious memory of you. From the time we first met when I was 10 at St. John's in Delphos and you caught me the one and only time I skipped school, to the letters we sent back and forth when you were in Steubenville, to the day you took me in the back door or the sacristy at the Cathedral in Toledo so I could "see what you saw" when you offered mass, to our last visit at the Ursuline Care Center. You were there for me when we lost my dad, my grandmother. You listened to my heart's cry when I was seeking. You encouraged me to follow my heart in the Lord's service and celebrated the shared calling we had. You have always been my dearest friend and mentor and I have always been so blessed to have you in my life. You were more than pastor: you were friend, confidant, teacher, mentor, example and I love you dearly. You will always be in my heart as I minister and as I live out my Christian faith. There you are now...home and more alive than ever! Pray for me. One day, I will look for you in that "great cloud of witnesses" as I follow you through heaven's gates. Until then, my dear friend, may you know all the joys of heaven as you continue on secure in the arms of our Jesus.



Sandra (Kohorst) Greenberg - May 27, 2014 at 02:30 PM



“ We were so blessed to have you in our life and family for those 96 yrs. We will never forget you and all the good times. We will miss you. May you rest in peace, dear Bishop Albert.##imported-begin##Theresa Oberley teoberley@yahoo.com##imported-end##

September 23, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ Bishop Ottenweller or Big O as I fondly remember him being called during my youth in Delphos was a Godly man who lit up the room when he entered it with his towering presence and his huge smile. What I remember most about him was his positivity , his warmth and love and how much I felt at peace every time I spoke with him. He was definitely a gentle giant. Big O, may you and Bob Arnzen reunite in heaven and catch up on all of the great memories you two can remember.##imported-begin##Roger Beckman rbohio61@yahoo.com##imported-end##

September 23, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ Bishop Ottenweller had a great influence on me as a young teenager in Blakeslee, OH in the early 60's. The then young priest, loved to play golf and he taught me how to play in the process of getting me to sing in a parochial school play. Bishop Ottenweller was a down to earth man and we should look at his type of priest to see the best of that particular career!##imported-begin##Dan Thiel thieldan44@yahoo.com##imported-end##

September 23, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ May you rest in peace Dear Bishop. You were so very tall and yet so 'Down to Earth'. Thank you for your guidance and leadership. But, mostly, I remember you when you sang the Entire Eucharistic Prayer at the Chrism Mass in Steubenville. It was the first time I have ever heard the sung version. God's Peace be with you. the Hranek Family##imported-begin##Mary Ann Hranek hranekma07@yahoo.com##imported-end##

September 23, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ My parents, Merlin and Mary Lou Wieging, have fond memories of Bishop Ottenweller and his time at Delphos St. Johns.##imported-begin##Laura Leightey##imported-end##

September 23, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ Sept. 26, 2012
Condolences and very sorry.
Thomas Tenney##imported-begin##Thomas Tenney tomtenney@h
otmail.com##imported-end##

September 23, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ His Excellency, will truly be missed in the Diocese of Steubenville.
Rest Eternal grant unto Him, O Lord.##imported-begin##Mr. J.
Anthony Pietrowski##imported-end##

September 23, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ I grew up under Bishop Ottenweller. I can remember the 1st time I
recall meeting him - which I was in 2nd grade. Also I had the
privelage to be confirmed by Bishop Ottenweller. He will always
hold a special place in my heart!##imported-begin##Christienne
Moore kofcwife74@gmail.com##imported-end##

September 23, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ *The Bishop was my friend for many years. He will be sadly missed by all who knew him. We will continue to pray for you and ask you to pray for us.##imported-begin##Doris Skibicki and Family##imported-end##*

September 23, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ *He was a truly great man and an inspiration to all that he met. He was a very dear friend to my parents Clint and Rose. I remember his visits to our home during my childhood. He officiated at my dad's funeral and had great stories to tell, as only he could. I am sure he is heaven catching up with them all!##imported-begin##Mandy Miller##imported-end##*

September 23, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ *My deepest condolences to all of the family. This wonderful man will always have a very special place in my heart. Many years ago when I started school at Delphos St John's, I spoke only Spanish. The very young priest took it upon himself to become my personal tutor. An angel has gone home. He will remain in my heart with many fond memories.##imported-begin##Amelia Quintero Anderson Idynrd46@aol.com##imported-end##*

September 23, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ *Sharing our love for basketball, he was always someone very special to me and our family. His eulogy during Dad's funeral still comforts me. Thanks for the many years of friendship and faith!##imported-begin##Jeanne Arnzen Gulick##imported-end##*

September 23, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ I can just see Bishop O arriving at the gates of heaven, his signature smile lighting up his eyes and face, his fisted arm pumping the air, exclaiming to the many friends and family waiting for him, “I’m here! I’m home!” Your life and death with forever inspire me.##imported-begin##Elaine Arnzen Sheehan##imported-end##

September 23, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ Our deepest sympathy to you Rosie.##imported-begin##Al & Janice Siebeneck##imported-end##

September 23, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ Bishop Ottenweller always had a smile on his face. I will remember the times he visited with Gramps and talked of the old days. He will be missed by many people but I am glad to say we will meet again.##imported-begin##Vicki Tatman (Carl Ottenweller's Granddaughter) vickitatman@yahoo.com##imported-end##

September 23, 2012 at 12:00 AM