



Rev. Lehr J. Barkenquest OSFS

July 16, 1935 - January 4, 2019

Rev. Lehr J. Barkenquest, O.S.F.S. passed away peacefully on January 4, 2019 at Rosary Care Center, Sylvania OH, at the age of 83. Fr. Lehr was born to Lehr and Neitha (Cox) Barkenquest on July 16, 1935 in Ottawa Lake, MI. He is survived by his sister Janice Ann Bragg of Bradenton, FL, nephews Norman, Timothy and Brian Bragg and niece Julie Blackwell, as well as six great nephews and three great-great nephews.

Fr. Lehr graduated from Toledo Central Catholic High School in 1953. He entered the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales immediately following graduation and made his first Profession of Vows in September of 1954 and was ordained a priest on April 11, 1964. He earned an undergraduate degree in Mathematics from the Catholic University of America and did further graduate studies in both Mathematics and Theology.

Fr. Lehr had a long career in Catholic education. He taught at Fr. Judge High School, Philadelphia, PA as a seminarian and immediately after ordination. In 1965 he was appointed teacher and treasurer of St. Francis de Sales High School, Toledo, OH. Four years later he was transferred to DeSales Catholic High School, Lockport, NY, where he served first as a teacher and then as the Principal. He returned to St. Francis-Toledo in 1988 as a teacher and administrator. He became pastor of St. Rita Parish, Clarklake, MI in 1991 where he served for 22 years.

Both as Principal and School Treasurer Fr. Lehr was very concerned that all who wanted a Catholic education could receive it. He devoted countless hours building up tuition/scholarship funds in the schools where he ministered. His financial ability was furthered evidenced in his stewardship of St. Rita Parish in Clarklake and his pastoral generosity in his selfless dedication to his predecessor, Fr. Jim Prentice, during Fr. Jim's final battle with cancer. Father Lehr also served many summers on the staff and in the leadership of Camp DeSales in Brooklyn, Michigan where he improved the various programs of the camp, the camp finances and the physical plant itself.

Visitation will be held from 3:00-5:00 PM and 6:00-7:00 PM on Wednesday, January 9 at St. Rita Catholic Church, 10516 Hayes Rd, Clarklake, MI 49234. The Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Wednesday, January 9 at 7 PM at St. Rita's. Private Interment will take place on Thursday, January 10 at Resurrection Cemetery, Toledo Ohio. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to St. Rita Catholic Church or the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales Retirement Fund.

??Coyle Funeral Home is assisting with arrangements. Please view and sign the online registry at CoyleFuneralHome.com.

Cemetery Details

Resurrection Cemetery

5725 Hill Ave
Toledo, OH 43615

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 9. 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

St. Rita Catholic Church
10516 Hayes Rd.
Clarklake, MI

Visitation

JAN 9. 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

St. Rita Catholic Church
10516 Hayes Rd.
Clarklake, MI

Service

JAN 9. 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

St. Rita Catholic Church
10516 Hayes Rd.
Clarklake, MI

Tribute Wall

MH

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with the family of Fr. Bartenquest. I was a student of his when he first arrived at DeSales in Lockport NY. He was also our wrestling coach and I will always remember his different colored books he put together to teach us wrestling.*
M. Hinton, Lockport NY

Michael Hinton - January 12, 2019 at 12:02 AM

JF

“ *Janice Bragg Family purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Rev. Lehr J. Barkenquest OSFS.*



Janice Bragg Family - January 05, 2019 at 06:34 PM

TK

“ *I am very saddened to hear of Father Barkenquest's passing. Although we lost touch through the years, his guidance, support and tenderness helped me through a very difficult time in my Junior and Senior year at DeSales High School in Lockport, New York. He reached so many of his students at DeSales during his tenure there. He will always remain a strong figure in the history of DeSales High School.*
I will always love and respect how he touched so many lives at DeSales. He certainly had a tremendous impact on the person I am today.
I will cherish the memories of our many dinner conversations and am grateful and blessed to have known him.
Regards,
Tim Kenyon

tim Kenyon - January 04, 2019 at 11:11 PM

JO

I'm sorry for the things I've been saying about him.

Jon - August 29, 2020 at 02:17 AM