



## Tony Albert Borgia

March 16, 1957 - December 15, 2018

On Saturday, December 15, 2018, Father Anthony (Tony) A. Borgia, 61, passed away doing what he loved most...being part of a parish family event. Born on March 16, 1957 to Rose (Skinn) (Borgia) Riedy and James V. Borgia in Norwalk, Ohio. He graduated from St. Paul High School in 1975. After graduation he worked in Sandusky at Barone's Beer Barrel as a cook and a bartender. He entered the seminary at St. Gregory's in Cincinnati in 1976 and studied theology at Mount St. Mary's Seminary of the West, Cincinnati. Ordained a deacon in 1983, he served for a year at Findlay, St. Michael's. He was ordained a priest on June 9, 1984; his first assignment was as an associate pastor of St. Patrick of Heatherdowns. In 1986, he was assigned to the Diocesan Youth Office serving as Spiritual Director of Youth, Chaplain of Scouting, Associate Director of CYO and Director of Youth Ministry. He served as Pastor of Galion, St. Joseph from 1993-2000; Fort Jennings, St. Joseph and Ottoville, Immaculate Conception from 2000-2005; St. Peter's, Mansfield from 2005-2011; St. John the Baptist, Point Place and St. Michael, Toledo from 2011-2015. In July of 2015, he came full circle having been assigned as Pastor of St. Patrick of Heatherdowns. Tony was also extremely involved in prison ministry and served as a spiritual counselor for inmates on death row. Tony will be forever remembered by his mother Rose Riedy, his brothers and sisters Karen (Denny) Schild, Jim Borgia, Mark (Karla) Riedy, Lynn Borgia, Tom (Ann) Borgia, Julie (John) Keegan, Lori (Mark) King, Lynne (Mark) Ludlum and Pam (Tracy) Armstrong. He also leaves behind numerous

FAVORITE nieces and nephews and great nieces and nephews who will fight over the title. He also leaves behind several close friends with whom he vacationed.

He is preceded in death by his father James V. Borgia, step-father Edwin P. Riedy, brother Gene Borgia, and great niece Calla Rose Bellman.

Visitation will be held on Thursday, December 20th at Our Lady, Queen of the Most Holy Rosary Cathedral beginning with Reception of the Body at 3:00 p.m. and continuing until 8:00 p.m. Vespers will be prayed at 7:30 p.m. The Funeral Mass will be held on Friday, December 21st at 11:00 a.m. with the Most Revered Daniel E. Thomas, Bishop of Toledo, as the principal celebrant. There will be visitation Friday morning beginning at 9:00 a.m. until the time of the Mass. Additional visitation will be held at St. Paul's Catholic Church, Norwalk, Ohio on Friday evening from 6-8 p.m. Mass will be celebrated on Saturday in the church at 10:30 a.m. with interment to follow in St. Paul Cemetery.

Tony would not want us to be sad, but he would want us to celebrate his life of serving Christ. He had a huge personality, a huge heart and huge ambitions for all the parishes he served. He was a force that could not be contained and his impact will continue to ignite flames for a long time.

The family would like to thank Fr. Paul Schreiner, Lydia Ellinwood, Tina Abel, and ALL the staff and parishioners of St. Patrick of Heatherdowns for their support.

In lieu of flowers, family requests memorial donations in memory of Tony be made to St. Patrick of Heatherdowns, 4201 Heatherdowns Blvd., Toledo, OH 43614 or FCEDO, 93 E. Main St. Norwalk, Ohio 44857.

Fr. Tim Kummerer remembered Tony in this way "Tony was one of the best priest's ever...When I think of Tony...I think of Nathaniel in the scriptures...Jesus said, "There is no duplicity in him"... in other words; what you see is what you get...and that was Tony...he said it like it was...he was so authentic... He gave all of us the freedom to be who we were... without apology...and since grace, always builds on nature...he gave us permission to

let God start with us, just exactly where we were....

Priests like Tony don't come around very often...you were lucky to have him...And he was lucky to have all of you...I hope you know how much he loved to work as a team...and how he saw the strength of the parish in the strong bonds of relationships between people...and he believed that a parish staff models life for the rest of the community."

Classmate Monsignor Michael Billian remembered Father Tony this way. "He lived his faith and his priesthood boldly with a fierce commitment to those who most needed a connection to Lord: the poor, the imprisoned, the lonely, especially the elderly the children, youth and young adults. Using the gifts, talents and personality the Lord gave him, he made Christ more present in the world."

# Previous Events

## Visitation

DEC **20**. 3:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Rosary Cathedral  
2535 Collingwood Blvd  
Toledo, OH 43610

## Funeral

DEC **21**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Rosary Cathedral  
2535 Collingwood Blvd  
Toledo, OH 43610

# Tribute Wall

JA

“ *Dear Tom.  
We were so sorry to learn of your loss. Our sincerest sympathy to you, Ann, and your family.  
Jim and Danuta Ames*

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**Jim Ames** - December 22, 2018 at 12:03 PM

BM

“ *My sincere condolences to Luke, Max, Pam and the family.  
RIP Fr. Tony.*

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**Bob McCarthy** - December 21, 2018 at 03:13 PM

SF

“ *Thank you again Father, for going to the hospital and blessing my grandson Cam, before his surgery and later baptizing him. It's been 6 years and he is healthy and WONDERFUL. This community was blessed to have you in it..*

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**Sobczak Family** - December 21, 2018 at 02:29 PM

JK

“ *Father Tony was a very compassionate and loving priest. When my best friend passed away I made the funeral arrangements with Fr. Tony. He was so caring and compassionate. I really didn't know him, but he surely showed love and compassion. I was so impressed with him. He made me laugh and of course, I cried but he helped me with caring. Even came to the funeral home and did an outstanding funeral for my best friend. I think he was one of the best priests I have ever met in my life time. So sad that God took him away from us. Sure God had other plans for him. To the family, so sorry for your loss. You have my deepest sympathy. May you always cherish the fond memories of such a wonderful man. God Bless You Jan Konoff*

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**Jan Konoff** - December 21, 2018 at 08:16 AM

JB

“ *It was amazing how Fr Tony could brighten your day with his smile and presence. He made our family want to be better people, and to carry the heart of Christ. He will forever be missed and loved dearly. His love was unconditional, and we will carry that love and instill that in others. Thank you For Tony for being a light in our lives.*



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**Jennifer Baez** - December 20, 2018 at 05:53 PM

CF

“ Tony's family and mine were neighbors in Norwalk, as I grew up being friends with his sisters near my age. His cousin Shirley Skinn and I attended his ordination...it was an amazing ceremony that I still remember to this day. As Shirley shared with me when she told me what had happened to Tony, it made me reflect back on how amazing of a priest Tony has been. I have read so much in just a few days on how he affected so many. His role in my life was that he agreed to travel to southeast Indiana to perform my wedding ceremony 27 years ago, and then to visit my family in Cincinnati a few years back during a sabbatical he was taking. My sons got a glimpse that evening during dinner and a few games of Euchre to see how real and human Tony was, I'm just sad they did not get to experience him leading a mass or spinning a tale during his homily to talk about Tom or Pam or any number of his siblings. His spirit lives on forever, but we will certainly miss his big personality and even bigger laugh and smile. God bless Tony and the Borgia and Riedy families.

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**Chris Fries** - December 20, 2018 at 03:41 PM

KD

“ When the Lord our loved ones home, He leaves a gift of memories in exchange, remember the good ones.

*Tom I am sorry that I can't be with you and the family at this time.  
God Bless you all.  
.Ken Dickey*

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**Ken Dickey** - December 19, 2018 at 02:03 PM

RM

“ *Fr. Tony, your presence and personality filled a room and you were a joy to be around. A booming voice and a huge smile was your trademark greeting. There were no strangers in your life, you loved us all. Your request for us to not be sad - is a huge request, but in all honesty, we shall celebrate your amazing life ....through tears. Prayers and strength to your family, friends, fellow priests, parishioners, staff and students. Rest in Peace. Becky Marsh, Athenaeum of Ohio/Mount St. Mary's Seminary.*



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**Rebecca Marsh** - December 19, 2018 at 09:09 AM

JS

*Fr Tony. You will truly be missed by everyone at St. Pats. It was a joy to know you and now we pray that you will Rest In Peace.*

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**joan sullivan** - December 19, 2018 at 08:33 PM

NN

“ *What a tremendous loss! Tony was a genuine human being with a compassion as big as big gets. He touched my life when we worked together on retreats, summer camps and in ministry. He was a people's man and his legacy will continue to call all of us to be more God-like and generous in our service to others. Peace to his family and friends. May he Rest In Peace. Thanks be to God for Tony's life!*

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**Nick Nigro** - December 19, 2018 at 08:37 AM

SK

“ *An amazing priest, understanding, compassionate, and honest. He was so very kind to my father and kept our spirits up when he passed. I'm honored to have known him.*

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**Sharon Kaczmarek** - December 18, 2018 at 09:33 PM

DR

“ We knew Father Tony for only 2 years at St. Patrick's but are deeply hurt by the loss of such a wonderful, caring man and priest. Our prayers are for his family and all who ever knew him.  
*Don and Kathy Rotar, members of St. Pat's*

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**Donald Rotar** - December 18, 2018 at 06:39 PM



“ *Father Tony always had a caring smile and kind words . He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.*

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**Dana Miller-Whitman** - December 18, 2018 at 06:03 PM

GS

“ *I was a parishioner at St. John's in Point Place when Father Tony was there. I thought he was one of the best priest's I had ever met. When my husband was dying, Fr. Tony came to the hospital and blessed him with holy oil and sat with me by my husband's bedside. I am very sad in his passing. He was a wonderful and kind human being. Rest in peace Father Tony.*

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**Gerrie Soden** - December 18, 2018 at 05:56 PM

CM

“ *I will always remember Father Tony's contagious smile and getting thrown a fireball for a correct answer in religion class. He touched so many people's lives - what a beautiful example he gave us all.*

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**Caroline (Bloch) Milyard** - December 18, 2018 at 03:33 PM

CM

“ *Father Tony was a special Pastor and Priest, He will be difficult to replace. Our prayers to Pam Armstrong and Father Tony's entire Family. Cliff and Jan McIntire*

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**Cliff McIntire** - December 18, 2018 at 03:26 PM

MS

“ Father Tony was such a wonderful pastor - he made our services at St. Pat's so memorable. He was such a great comfort for me and my family during my husband's passing and funeral arrangements. He will forever be in my heart. My deepest sympathies.  
*Judy Ostrander and Family*

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**Maria Stachowiak** - December 18, 2018 at 02:48 PM

PS

“ I worked with Tony at Joseppi's back when we were "kids". Will never forget his smile and all the laughs we had. I'm so sorry for your loss and will keep family and friends in my prayers.  
*God Bless.*  
*Pam Sickinger-Hoon*



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**Pam Sickinger-Hoon** - December 18, 2018 at 01:33 PM

NH

“ Our condolences Rose to you and your family from the Ryersons.  
*Dave and Nancy Hicks*

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**Nancy Hicks** - December 18, 2018 at 12:22 PM

PJ

“ I was a member of St. Pat's when Fr. Tony was first at the Church and even though I no longer belong to St. Pat's, I often attended Mass there because of Tony. He Collected people. When you talked to him he made you feel like you where the most important person. He was truly bigger than life. I believe if you are good enough to make it to Heaven, Tony will be the first one to greet you. Pat  
*Jansen*

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**Pat J Jansen** - December 18, 2018 at 11:09 AM

PB

“ Our deepest heartfelt sympathies to the family and friends of Fr. Tony. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. May he rest in peace.

*Peggy and Paul Borawski*

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**Paul Borawski** - December 18, 2018 at 10:41 AM

PS

“ You went "Home" for Christmas. We and the rest of your faith community will miss you.

*Prayers for your family, close friends and parish,  
Patty & Chris Schaal*

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**P & C Schaal** - December 18, 2018 at 10:04 AM