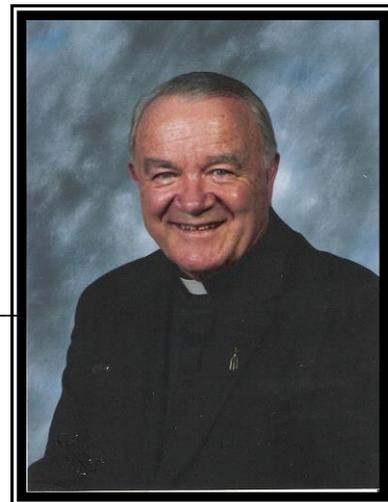




The Seasons of *A Good and Faithful Servant* Rev. Msgr. Martin F. Rauscher



Born -September 17, 1931

Ordained to the Priesthood -May 31, 1958

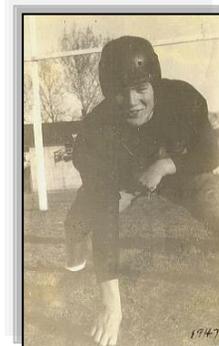
Born into Eternal Life – March 18, 2018



A Young Lad

Fredrick James "Martin" Rauscher was born to Helen and Fred Rauscher on September 17, 1931 in Newark, New Jersey. Shortly after his birth, the family moved to Chestnut Street in Morristown. On October 25th of the same year, he was baptized at Assumption Church by the Reverend W. G. Keen. Within a few years the family moved once again - this time to Whippany Road in Hanover Township, where Father Martin, his sister, Jane and his brother, David all attended Whippany Grammar School. Father Martin remembers his depression-era childhood as being, "average, normal and uneventful. We stayed close to home and concentrated on sports, work, school, and family."

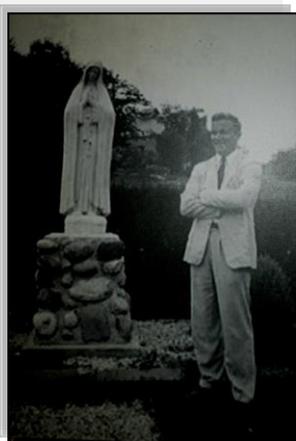
After graduating from grammar school, Father Martin attended Morristown High School, where he was a member of the choir and a star blocking-back on the school's football team. He was known to his friends as "Jupe", and called everyone he knew "Cuz."



Path to the Priesthood

In 1950, upon graduating from Morristown High, Father Martin was accepted into an accelerated Latin program at the Benedictine Missionary Seminary at St. Paul's Abbey in Newton, N.J. After his second year at the Abbey, he entered the Novitiate and took the name "Martin". At the end of his Novitiate year, a mutual decision was made. "I needed to decide if I wanted to continue on to become a monk, and the other monks needed to see if they wanted me to become part of the community. Thankfully, the monks voted 'Yes' and I did too!"

After graduating from the Abbey in 1954, Father Martin attended St. Mary's School of Theology at Delbarton, where, in 1958, he graduated with a Masters in Theology. On May 31st of that same year, he was ordained a Priest for St. Paul's Abbey in the Benedictine Order at St. John the Baptist Cathedral in Paterson by Bishop James McNulty.



A Benedictine Monk

After his ordination, Father Martin was assigned to study German and Missionology at the University of Munich in Germany. While there, he served as weekend chaplain for U.S. Air Personnel in Munich. The next year he was called back to St. Paul's Abbey to become Assistant Director of the *Queen of Peace Retreat House*. He was later named Director, and led both youth and adult retreats at Queen of Peace for ten years. In 1969, at the request of Archbishop Hannon of Louisiana, he was sent to New Orleans as part of a greater urban program called *Summer in the City*. Along with numerous priests, sisters and seminarians from around the country, Father Martin and six of his fellow monks from the Abbey helped quell civil and social unrest by living and preaching the ways of Christian love and acceptance. After his time in New Orleans, Father Martin spent an additional two years in Baltimore, working and living at The Joseph House and serving as a chaplain at the Maryland House of Corrections.

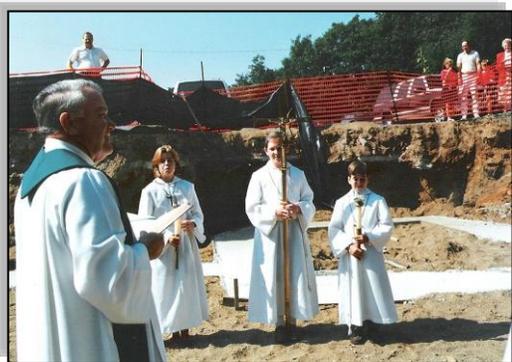
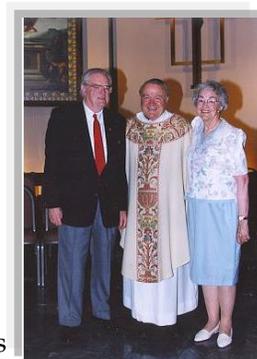


Upon his return to New Jersey in 1972, Father Martin made the decision to leave the Benedictine Order and join the Diocese of Paterson, which was then under the leadership of Bishop Lawrence B. Casey. Throughout his first six years in the Paterson Diocese, Father Martin taught at DePaul High School in Wayne while living and serving as a weekend assistant at Our Lady of Magnificat in Kinnelon. Shortly after Bishop Rodimer was named Bishop in 1978, he appointed Father Martin Pastor of the newly-formed Resurrection Parish in Randolph. "I was happy to be asked to become pastor of a brand new parish community," he recalls. "I worked in Randolph for 12 years - creating something new from the ground up, with great people to help and a great God to add all his graces." During his tenure at Resurrection Father

Martin sat on the Diocesan Priests' Senate and served as Dean of the Southwestern Morris Deanery. In January of 1989, he was named a Monsignor by Pope John Paul II.

A Morristown Boy Comes Home

In February 1990, Bishop Frank Rodimer asked Father Martin to become the 15th Pastor of Assumption Parish. This, as Father Martin recalls, was one of the most difficult decisions of his life. "I had very mixed feelings about leaving the beautiful parish we had created in Randolph and coming 'home' to the church where I was baptized." Nevertheless, the transition was made, and Father Martin quickly put his management and financial skills to work to help the parish heal after struggling with a significant fiscal and leadership crisis.



Throughout the 20 years of Father Martin's leadership, the ministries, mission, and physical plant of Assumption Parish have flourished. Building on his nickname of "Bricks and Mortar Marty," the parish added a new Parish Center to the back of the church building in 1993. The addition gave the parish a new kitchen, community room, meeting rooms, and library. In 1998, the parish celebrated its Sesquicentennial (150th) Anniversary with a full year of liturgical and social events - culminating in an outdoor Mass and parish picnic on August 15th, the Feast of the Assumption.



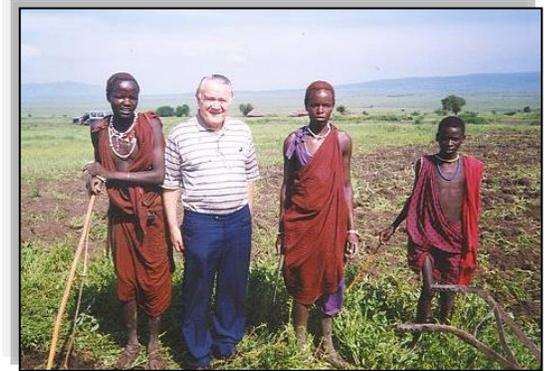
At Holy Rood Cemetery, the offices were refurbished, two new mausoleum buildings were added, and an endowment established to ensure the cemetery's continuity of excellence in the future.

In 2002, the parish re-purchased the old convent on Macculloch Avenue for use as Assumption's Ministry Center. The building now houses Religious Education offices, meeting rooms, a meditation room, and a Youth Ministry area. In 2007, Father Martin raised over two million dollars in a capital campaign and oversaw an extensive interior renovation of the church building - returning the Gothic structure to its original roots.

Time for Enrichment

In 2001, Father Martin took a six-month sabbatical and traveled to Tanzania, East Africa, where he stayed with his good friend and seminarian classmate, Father. Damien Milliken. While there, he got a first-hand taste of Father Damien's missionary work and was overwhelmed with the faith, dedication and determination of the Tanzanian people.

Father Martin was disappointed when his further travel plans to Greece and the Holy Land were cancelled due to a State Department travel ban to those countries because of terrorist threats, and decided to travel, instead, to California for the last part of his sabbatical.



A Champion of the Poor and Marginalized

Although Father Martin's service in the priesthood has been long and varied, one thing has remained constant throughout - his love and concern for those Christ loved the most. On any given day, he can be found ministering to the sick in local hospitals and nursing homes, or visiting the elderly and the homebound.

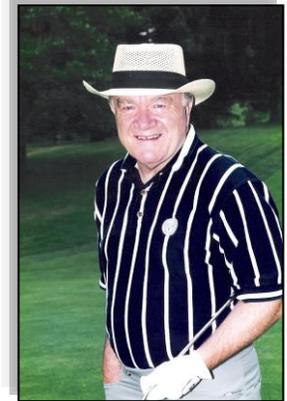
But perhaps his greatest legacy is his example of service to the poor. Assumption has two "sister" parishes - Holy Trinity Parish in Passaic and St. Anne's in Carthage, Mississippi. Assumption parishioners annually take part in a food drive for Haiti, prepare Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets for local families in need, contribute Christmas gifts through our "Giving Tree" program, supply frozen dinners for the working poor, support the missionary work of *Africa Surgery, Inc.* and *From Houses to Homes, Guatemala*, and can lay claim to being founding members of the Interfaith Food Pantry, Morristown Soup Kitchen, and the Interfaith Council for Homeless Families. Each summer 50 of Assumption's youth group members and their leaders travel to West Virginia to repair homes in the impoverished Appalachian region. In 2002, Father Martin guaranteed that the parish's commitment to the poor would continue when he established Assumption's *Endowment for the Poor*. Father Martin has also served on the Board of Directors of Hope House, the Catholic Charities Social Service Agency of Morris County, for 15 years.

A Lifetime of Service

Although he was eligible for diocesan retirement upon his 75th birthday, Father Martin opted to remain Pastor of Assumption and was granted permission by Bishop Serratelli. In the fall of 2006, he celebrated his birthday with a parish-wide picnic on the church grounds. "I wanted to stay here to oversee the renovation of our beautiful church and to remain with the people I care so much about," he recalls, "so it made sense to stay right here in the very place I love." On May 31, 2008, Father Martin celebrated the 50th Anniversary of his Ordination to the Priesthood with a Mass and reception at the Hilton Hotel in Parsippany. Over 600 parishioners, friends, family, and fellow clergy members turned out to honor him upon this important milestone in his life. A children's picnic was held the next day on the grounds of the school.

When the decision to retire was made in the spring of 2009, Father Martin greeted this new chapter in his life with eagerness and a twinge of nostalgia. "I have no regrets—only beautiful memories of the children and their parents, of senior citizens who are in the same boat as I am, and of individual Catholic Christians who can relate to my being single and serving the Lord and his people."

And though his years as Pastor Emeritus of Assumption, Father Martin continued to hold the parish and its people dear to his heart. "My heart is full of gratitude to God for all the graces he has given me in my ministry, for the beautiful people I have shared all this with over the years, and for the youth of this community who have kept me young in the Lord's service. I also thank him for the wonderful staff members who have shared their gifts, talents, and love with me throughout the years." "I thank God for all that has been. I trust God for all that will be."



The Master said to him, "Well done, my good and faithful servant."

– Matthew 25:21

