

OBITUARY FOR MSGR. RICHARD S. OSWALD

December 26, 1939 – November 25, 2024

Monsignor Richard S. Oswald died on November 25, 2024, in Little Rock, Arkansas at Arkansas Hospice. He was the son of Oscar J. and Hilda M. Oswald. He is survived by his brothers Rev. John O. Oswald, of Little Rock; Fred M. Oswald and wife Sarah Spencer of Little Rock; Mark A. Oswald and wife Ruth Williams of Santa Fe, New Mexico; his sister Johanna C. Oswald of Little Rock; sisters-in-law Judy Langham Oswald of Little Rock and Kim Johnson Oswald of Austin, Texas and nine nieces and nephews and four great nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents and brothers Kenneth J. Oswald and George E. Oswald.

A native of Little Rock, he graduated Little Rock Catholic High School. Following high school, Msgr. Oswald began his formation for the priesthood at Saint John's Home Mission Seminary in Little Rock. On May 29, 1965, the Most Reverend Albert L. Fletcher ordained him to the priesthood for the Diocese of Little Rock.

After ordination, Msgr. Oswald returned to his Alma Mater, Little Rock Catholic High, to teach while living in residence at Saint Mary's Parish in North Little Rock, Saint Theresa's and Our Lady of Good Counsel in Little Rock. He served as associate pastor of Our Lady of Good Counsel. His first pastorate was of the parishes of Saint Mary in McGehee, Holy Child in Dumas, and the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Dermott in 1985. In 1987, Monsignor became pastor of Saint Anne in North Little Rock. From 1988-2006, Msgr. Oswald served as pastor of Saint Vincent de Paul in Rogers where he served during a time of rapid growth in the parish. During his tenure as pastor of Saint Vincent de Paul, he was the dean of the Northwest Deanery. In 2006, he served as pastor of Immaculate Conception in Fort Smith until health issues required him to step back from parish administration. His generosity manifested through his service as associate pastor at Christ the King in Little Rock, Saint Joseph in Conway, Saint Edward in Little Rock, Saint Rose of Lima in Carlisle while in residence at the House of Formation where he served as spiritual director for those in formation.

In addition to parish ministry, Monsignor Oswald provided advice and counsel at the diocesan level. He was Director of Family Life, Scripture Studies, Evangelization, and Parish Renewal. From 2011-2015, he was Diocesan Liturgy Director and Assistant Vocation Director. Over the course of his ministry, Msgr. Oswald served on several diocesan boards.

The Vigil Service will be at 6 p.m. on Monday, December 2, 2024, at the Cathedral of Saint Andrew. The Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, December 3, 2024, at the Cathedral of Saint Andrew. The inurnment of Monsignor Oswald's ashes will take place at a later date at Calvary Cemetery in Little Rock.