



Reverend Anthony Michael Coniaris

April 4, 1926 - March 15, 2020

Father Anthony M. Coniaris, age 93, fell asleep in the Lord on March 15, 2020 at the Glen in Hopkins. His wife, Mary Pappas Coniaris, preceded him in death in July 1991, after 42 years of marriage. They were partners in the ministry at St Mary's Greek Orthodox Church in South Minneapolis their entire marriage.

He was born in Boston, Massachusetts in 1926, the first son of Michael Coniaris from Ellinikon, Greece and Bessie Karalekas from Pavlia, Greece. He attended Boston Latin School and then went on to graduate from Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Theological Seminary in Brookline, Massachusetts. Coniaris received a Masters of Divinity from Northwestern Theological Seminary in Minneapolis, and continued studies in the fields of religion and psychiatry at the University of Minnesota and at St. John's University in Collegeville, Minnesota.

Coniaris was ordained a priest in 1953 and served as pastor of St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church, 3450 Irving Avenue South, Minneapolis, Minnesota for 39 years, from 1953 – 1992 – his only parish assignment. After his retirement in January 1993 he devoted most of his time to Light & Life

Publishing Company which he founded in 1968. He authored more than 75 books, pamphlets and brochures. Light & Life became one of the largest distributors of Orthodox materials in the world. He also lectured at retreats and seminars at several Orthodox parishes in the US as well as in Canada. In addition, Coniaris was an Adjunct Professor of Homiletics at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Seminary in Brookline, Massachusetts and taught there during his retirement.

He was past President of the Minneapolis Ministerial Association, the Twin Cities Metropolitan Church Commission, the Minneapolis Professional Men's Club, the St. Louis Park Kiwanis, and the Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches. He was a member of the Board of the Children's Heart Fund, and was listed in WHO'S WHO in RELIGION 1976-77. He received the WCCO Good Neighbor Award in 1973 and the Alumnus Citation from Holy Cross Seminary. In 2018, he was awarded the Degree of Doctor of Divinity from Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology.

Coniaris was the father of two children, Paul Coniaris (Beverly), and Patricia Christopulos (Daniel); and his grandchildren, Anthony Coniaris (Alexandra), Amy Hoeft (Andreas), Ted Coniaris (Melissa), Valerie Comprelli (Kevin), David Boosalis (Kristine), Jordan Smith (Matthew), Zoe Olson (Taylor); as well as his 15 great-grandchildren.

Many of the St. Mary's parishioners consider him their spiritual father. Because of this and his great love and dedication for his parish, in lieu of

flowers, memorial donations can be made out to: St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

PRIVATE FAMILY SERVICES. A public memorial service will be held in the future. Private interment Lakewood Cemetery.

Cemetery Details

Lakewood Cemetery (Minneapolis)

3600 Hennepin Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55408

Tribute Wall

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“ On behalf of the Sam and Harriett Cheolis family, may I offer our sincerest condolences to Father Anthony's beautiful family. May you find peace in knowing that he has salvation through Jesus Christ.



We are eternally grateful that Father Anthony answered God's calling on his life and selflessly served his fellow man with humility and grace. He has inspired, educated, counseled, and comforted countless souls. Through his God-inspired writings, Father will continue to minister to the faithful for generations to come.

To his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren... Thank you for allowing each of us to call him our spiritual Father, though we know that he was not our father, rather he was yours. He was one of God's children who faithfully followed our Father God and dedicated his life to guiding as many souls as would follow.

May his memory be eternal +

May the Holy Spirit bring peace to you all. +

With love,

Harriett Cheolis, Katy and Scott Frietag, Peter and Libby Cheolis,
Paula and Jack Bloomquist

The Cheolis Family - March 17, 2020 at 08:18 PM



“ *May I share my Wife and my Sincere Condolences to the family and to all those whose lives were touched and Blessed by knowing this Wonderful Servant of God. I'm personally so very grateful for his kindness and encouraging words to me at a time of great sorrow in my life. It so helped ease my pain. I've tried to follow this act of grace and be a source of kindness to those in my life. Rest In Peace Father.*

Sincerely,

Ron and Mary Jo Peterson.

Ronald Peterson - March 17, 2020 at 09:59 AM