



Fr. J. Michael Byron

September 18, 1959 - May 20, 2022

Byron, Fr. J. Michael age 62, of Eden Prairie, passed away on May 20, 2022.

"Father Mike" will be dearly missed by his family, many friends, parishioners and all whom he impacted in the Twin Cities community and beyond.

Preceded in death by parents John P. and Mary L. Byron. Survived by siblings Molly (Jeff) Hill, Minnetonka, MN; Jim Byron, Scottsdale, AZ; Martha Byron, Eden Prairie, MN; Joe (Deb) Byron, Duluth, MN and Anne (Ryan) Anderson, Blaine, MN. He is also survived by nieces and nephews Matthew, Sarah (L.J.), and Chris Hill; Michael and J.T. Byron, and Victoria Anderson. His loving extended family includes many cousins, aunts and uncles.

Mike grew up in Our Lady of Grace parish in Edina, graduated from Edina West High School, and continued his education at St. John's University, the St. Paul Seminary, and the Weston Jesuit School of Theology in Cambridge, MA, where he received his doctorate in theology. He carried forward many lifelong friendships from each stop along the way.

Father Mike was ordained on May 27, 1989 and served with compassion, wisdom and intelligence for thirty-three years at several parishes in the Twin Cities, including Church of the Assumption, Richfield; St. Olaf Catholic Church, Minneapolis; Church of St. Cecilia, St. Paul; The Church of St. Pascal Baylon, St. Paul and most recently Pax Christi Catholic Community, Eden

Prairie.

Mike's list of gifts was long. He was warm and welcoming. He had a beautiful Irish tenor singing voice as well as a hilarious sense of humor. His lifetime love of learning led to his role as a talented teacher, sharing his knowledge over many years with students at Holy Angels, St. John's University, St. Kate's, and the St. Paul Seminary. He was a gifted homilist, deep thinker, skilled writer, caring mentor, and good listener.

As the eldest of six siblings, Mike was our quiet leader, and an unfailing source of love and support. His warmth and often irreverent humor was a consistent, reassuring presence in our lives. He will be forever missed.

Visitation on Wednesday June 1, 4:00-7:00 PM at Pax Christi Catholic Community, 12100 Pioneer Trail, Eden Prairie. Mass of Christian Burial, Thursday, June 2, at 11:00 AM at Pax Christi, with lunch to follow. Visitation 9:00- 10:45 AM prior to the service. Live stream provided by paxchristi.com

In lieu of flowers memorials preferred to the J. Michael Byron Memorial Fund.

www.washburn-mcreavy.com

Edina Chapel 952-920-3996

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 1. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Pax Christi Catholic Church
12100 Pioneer Trail
Eden Prairie, MN 55347

Visitation

JUN 2. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Pax Christi Catholic Church
12100 Pioneer Trail
Eden Prairie, MN 55347

Mass of Christian Burial

JUN 2. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Pax Christi Catholic Church
12100 Pioneer Trail
Eden Prairie, MN 55347

Tribute Wall

MM

“ J.M.J.

+Fr. Byron and I were classmates for a year at the St. Paul Seminary. I remember his cordiality and intelligence. May his Soul rest in peace. I will be pleased to offer Mass for his Soul's repose. May the Holy Family of Nazareth comfort the Byrons and all who mourn the passing of +Fr. Byron.



Msgr. Charles M. Mangan - June 11, 2022 at 04:20 PM

EJ

“ About 14 years ago I was church shopping and stumbled upon a welcoming little neighborhood parish with a truly inspiring pastor. His homilies resonated on a level I hadn't experienced before, and I was hooked. Soon after, my fiancé, parents, and brother joined me as parishioners at St. Cecilia's. Fr. Mike eventually presided over our wedding in 2011; his singing of A Nuptial Blessing is still a highlight, and has been playing in my head since I learned of his passing. I remember our meetings with him before the wedding, where we very quickly picked up on his sense of humor. My husband and I asked if he thought he'd be able to attend the reception. He looked at us with a straight face and told us that he would decide once he had gotten a feel for our guests, saying that he only went to weddings if he thought they'd be a "good time". As luck would have it, two of our guests were mutual friends: Chuck MacDonald and Tom Hovey. Their presence was enough for him to pick up on the "good time" vibe, as he not only attended the reception, but by all accounts enjoyed himself. We developed a stronger connection with him after our wedding, and were heartbroken when he was reassigned to St. Pascal's a year later. We saw him a handful of times after he left St. C's, but have many regrets about losing touch with him over the years. He was a gem of a pastor, and a truly genuine, thoughtful and brilliant man. Our sincerest condolences to his family, friends, and all whose lives he touched. He will be deeply missed.

Elise Jahnke - June 03, 2022 at 03:37 PM



“ Fairest of All was purchased for the family of Fr. J. Michael Byron.



May 27, 2022 at 10:57 AM

DL

“ *Dave & Kim Larson lit a candle in memory of Fr. J. Michael Byron*



Dave & Kim Larson - May 27, 2022 at 09:59 AM

AS

“ *Fr. Mike officiated our wedding at St. Cecilia's a decade ago and it was perfect. His homily message is something we still revisit and his sung blessing at the end of the ceremony was truly our first wedding gift. St. C's has been our home in large part because Fr. Mike made us feel so welcome, valued, and loved. We extend our deepest sympathies and prayers to his siblings and extended family.*

Peace & Love,

Adam & Micaiah Sieve

Adam Sieve - May 25, 2022 at 04:37 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Fr. J. Michael Byron.*



May 25, 2022 at 08:10 AM

DK

“ *Father Mike was an excellent friend. He was very compassionate, loving, supportive and understanding. Father Mike helped me through the most difficult period of my life. I don't know where I would be without him. Father Mike had a deep devotion, faith and love for Jesus Christ that he shared with others One of my fondest memories was sending him a singing gorilla telegram. The entertainer had a whole program set where Father Mike had to participate. Everyone had a great time including Father Mike. I will miss him deeply!*

Diane Kostecka

Diane Kostecka - May 24, 2022 at 09:03 PM

BF

“ *The most phenomenal man and Priest...St Pascals....he baptized my older grandsons, and confirmed my son in law. He was therefor a very important part of our family. He so went before his time, but, we will hold him forever in our hearts, for the tremendous growth in our faith he gave us. Much love to his family.*

Heart, Love and Prayers

Barbara Fenton

Barbara Fenton - May 22, 2022 at 06:32 PM

AC

“ *My thoughts are with the Byron family. In the case of Father Mike, his family is immense and oh so far-reaching. What an incredibly magnetic and warm person our world has lost. I followed him from church to church, even out to Eden Prairie. Be at peace, Mike. Thank you for the gifts you've left behind.*

A M CAMPBELL - May 22, 2022 at 02:17 PM

DH

“ *Father Mike had a beautiful voice! He sang with our band, Forever Young, several times at St. Pascal events. It was a pleasure and an honor to know him and a delight to perform with him! Rest in peace, Father!*

Darlene Hoffmann - May 22, 2022 at 10:21 AM