



Society of St. Sulpice

Province of the United States of America

Office of the Provincial

February 27, 2009

Dear Friend of Father Ward,

The Little Sisters of the Poor at St. Martin's Home in Baltimore gave me your name as a friend of Father John Ward, S.S. I am sorry to inform you that Father Ward died suddenly on the evening before last at the age of 94. His health had been failing for some time, and the Lord's calling him home at this time spared him additional suffering.

I will enclose a copy of the death notice that was sent out to the public.

I know that you will join us in offering prayers for this wonderful and loving priest. Through the mercy of God, may he rest in peace.

Sincerely in Christ,

Thomas R. Ulshafer, S.S.
Provincial Superior

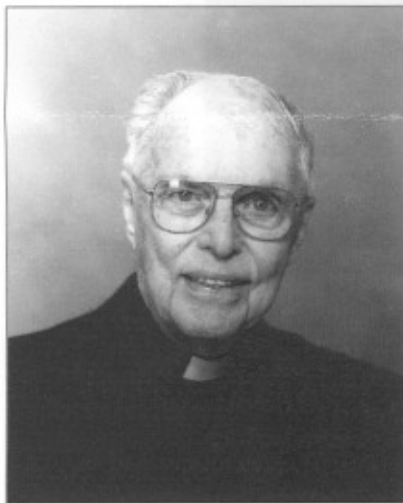


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For Immediate Release: February 27, 2009



On Tuesday evening, February 25, 2009, **Father John A. J. Ward, S.S.**, died suddenly at St. Charles Villa, the retirement residence for Sulpician priests in Catonsville, MD. The most senior member of the U.S. Province of the Society of St. Sulpice, Father Ward was 94 years old when he returned to the Lord.

Born in Pittsburgh on May 3, 1914, Father Ward attended Sacred Heart Seminary in Detroit and St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore where he earned the S.T.L. degree in 1939. He was ordained for the Archdiocese of Detroit on June 3 of that year.

After joining the Society of St. Sulpice in 1940, he was first assigned for one year to the faculty of St. Charles College in Catonsville, MD. Then he was transferred to St. Joseph's College in Mountain View, CA, where he served for the next fourteen years, except for one year, 1944-45, during which he completed his Sulpician formation program and earned a masters degree at The Catholic University of America in Washington, DC.

In 1954 he was named rector of St. Stephen's Seminary in Honolulu, Hawaii, a position which he held until 1965. After three years on the faculty of St. Thomas Seminary in Louisville, KY, he served as principal of St. Joseph's High School in Mountain View, CA, from 1968-1975. From 1975-1981, he was personnel aide to the provincial superior of the Sulpicians in Baltimore, MD. From 1981-86, he served as a consultant at St. Stephen's Center in Honolulu.

In 1986, Father Ward retired and moved to St. Charles Villa, where he has lived for the past twenty-six years.

On March 2, 2009, viewing will take place at Our Lady of the Angels Chapel in Catonsville, MD beginning at 5:00 p.m. and will conclude with a Vigil Service at 7:30 p.m. Fr. John Bitterman, Director of St. Charles Villa, will preside at the Vigil with Fr. Edward Fraser who will provide reflections. Very Rev. Thomas R. Ulshafer, Provincial, will be the celebrant at a Mass of Christian Burial on Tuesday, March 3, at 10:00 a.m. in the Chapel. Fr. Thomas R. Hurst will be the homilist. Interment will follow at the Sulpician Cemetery in Catonsville.