

Assembly Namesake, Msgr. J. Colby Grimes

Msgr. J. Colby Grimes, 50, died on Good Friday, April 12, 2003 after a long battle with Leukemia. Msgr. Grimes had been pastor of Resurrection Parish since November 1998. He would have marked his 25th anniversary of ordination on June 10, 2003.

Born in Columbus, he attended St. Francis de Dales High School in Toledo and transferred to Bishop Watterson high School his senior year as he and his family moved back to Columbus. It was in that summer of 1969 when Colby volunteered his services as trainer of the varsity football team. He enjoyed the position and the players so much that he continued on as trainer for the next two years after graduating from Bishop Watterson and while at Ohio Dominican College (now Ohio Dominican University). At that time, Colby said his goal was to become a priest and principal of Bishop Watterson High School. He earned a bachelor's degree in philosophy from St. Gregory's Seminary, a master's in education from Xavier University and a master's in divinity from Mt. St. Mary's Seminary, all in Cincinnati.

During his seminary years, he worked at St. Rita School for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Cincinnati, where he began a lifelong ministry to the hearing-impaired, including signing during masses broadcast on Sunday television in Columbus.

He did his deacon internship at Christ the King Parish and was ordained to the priesthood June 10, 1978, in St. Andrew Church, by Bishop Edward J. Herrmann. Pope John Paul named him a monsignor on October 11, 1995.

After ordination, he was assigned full-time teaching duties at Bishop Ready High School, with residence at Columbus St. Agnes Parish. He then served as principal of the old Chillicothe Bishop Flaget High School from

1983 to 1986.

He was assigned to his first pastorate, St. Stephen, in July 1986, and was transferred to pastor of Holy Spirit in July 1989. He was named pastor of St. Andrew in July 1997 and remained there until being assigned to Resurrection.

Msgr. served the diocese as a member of the Health Committee on Chemical Dependency, Priests' Salary Committee, Priest Senate and College of Consultors.

An Eagle Scout and an attendee at Boy's Nation during his younger years, he held many volunteer positions as a priest. After the tragic death of a Columbus firefighter, the fire chief asked Msgr. Grimes to help his firefighters through their emotional problems especially those who had tried to rescue the firefighter. Msgr. Grimes became part of a team of trained people known as the Columbus Critical Incident Stress Management Team. There now are similar teams throughout the U.S., Canada and Europe. He continued in that capacity until he became Pastor of the Church of the Resurrection in New Albany; but even then he still took phone calls from troubled firefighters who needed to hear his wisdom and spiritual encouragement. Monsignor **never** turned down a call for help. The men and women of the Fire Dept. had a special warm feeling for Msgr. Grimes for they knew how dedicated he was to them and the difference he had made.

He was also the chaplain of Columbus City Council. As council's chaplain, he offered a prayer at the start of each Monday's meeting to center their thoughts and bring them to higher ground. Monsignor also served as the chaplain for the Columbus Division of Police, the Shamrock Club and the St. Charles Preparatory School's soccer team. He did a wonderful job shepherding the city's safety personnel and truly loved being a teacher to

young people.

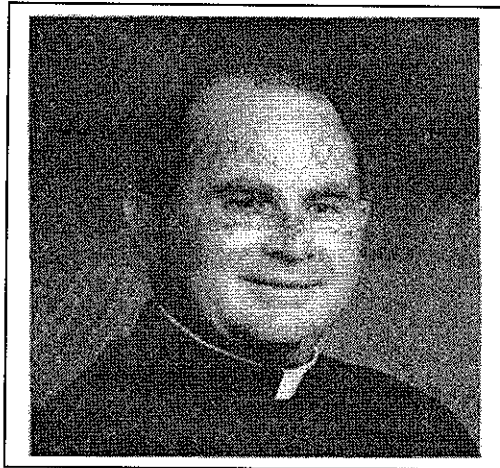
Msgr. Grimes was a Fourth Degree Knight who promoted our Order and encouraged parish members to join the Knights. He included Knight Honor Guards for many parish programs such as First Communions, Confirmations and May Crowning. He always acknowledged the participation of the Knights at church functions.

Rev. Msgr. J. Colby Grimes

Born: May 3, 1952

Ordained: June 10, 1978

Died: April 18, 2003



Msgr. J. Colby Grimes remained compassionate and selfless even when suffering from leukemia and chemotherapy. He continued to administer to the sick and to the needs of his parishioners. Monsignor was a faith-filled servant of the Lord who served as a shining example especially in his illness. He would say "**Remember, no matter what you go through, God is good - All the time.**"