



Rev. Mr. George Keator

December 29, 1935 - February 1, 2021

Dear Dad,

Our hearts are heavy and we miss you already. February 1st, 2021, when you slipped from this mortal world was a difficult day for all of us. Sadly, this is the last letter that we will write to you.

Growing up in Walden, NY your focus was small town, family & patriotism.

The sun rose and set around you in your parent's eyes. Frederick & Josephine O'Donnell Keator as well as your brothers, Frederick & Raymond, could not have been more proud of your many accomplishments. As a scholar/athlete, you were the first in the family to attend college and how excited they were to attend your graduation from the College of the Holy Cross in 1957.

We know how important your country was to you and by joining the Marine Corp you were able to rise to the rank of Captain and wear the uniform like your father and brothers before you. Although you met Mom while you were in college that was the time when you started your "post office romance" as Grandma Nesbit would call it. You hadn't asked her yet but you knew you were going to marry her. Sheila was absolutely the love of your life.

July 2, 1961 started your life as a married couple and it was always exciting. You had a dream a minute. Remember the race horses, the farm, family trips, all those sporting events? How about the trip to the dude ranch with the grandchildren? So many fun memories.

Excelling in your career with Sikorsky & Itek, your entrepreneurial spirit was a strong pull and in 1967 you moved your young family to Lenox so you could

start your small printing shop and newspaper. It was always a family affair and we have many memories and stories of silk screening bumper stickers, stapling raffle tickets, collating cookbooks or delivering papers, as we all participated.

Your masters in theology from The Elms College and acceptance into the diocese of Springfield Diaconate program started a whole new journey for you. Service was always a theme but to combine your faith with your service made you so happy. As the first permanent deacon assigned to St. Ann, St. Vincent DePaul & St. Patrick's parishes, you thrived in your quiet ministry. For almost 30 years you were a strong and steady example of faith. No matter how many times we heard it, we loved your "Twelve Days of Christmas" homily.

Thank you Dad for all the lessons you taught us through your living example of your faith, your patriotism, your hard work and dedication to our family and our community.

Mari, Sophia, Madeleine, Cassidy, Alex, Daley, Ehan, Gabriela, Maximilian, Harrison, Charlie, Colman, Race, Charlize, Viggo, Gracelyn & Corbin are going to miss their "Grandpa". Skads of nieces and nephews will miss their "Uncle George" and so many will miss "Deacon George". Mom will miss you most of all. We take comfort in knowing that you are now with our John and Katie.

Love you always,

David & Joanne, Mary, Georgette, Frederick & Renee, Matthew & Hannah, Bridget, Timothy & Karen

COVID has been cruel to so many and we are heartbroken that we can't gather for a more traditional celebration at this time. Deacon George will lay in repose on the altar at St. Ann, Lenox, MA on Friday, February 5th, from 8AM – 8PM for those who would like to stop, say a prayer and sign the book of remembrance. Unfortunately the family won't be able to be there to grieve and share with you. The family will gather for a private funeral on Saturday,

February 6th, at 10:30 AM which will be livestreamed from the following link: www.avptriparish.org. Burial will follow in the family plot at a later date. Those who wish are welcome to write a note to the family and send it to 218 Main St, Lenox, MA 01240.

Tribute Wall



“ <https://www.facebook.com/ValleyCentralMemorialPage/photos/a.2246234988753416/4051757544867809>

Jen Schimmel Brach - April 27, 2021 at 12:41 PM



“ *My heartfelt condolences to the Keator family. George was a wonderful man, a role model to so many, and a blessing to our community.*

Judy Hopper - February 17, 2021 at 08:01 PM



“ *Deepest sympathy to all George's family and especially Shelia. You are all in our thoughts and prayers. He will be very missed by all who were lucky to have known him.*

*With love and care,
Margaret, Laura and Elena Fernandez*

ELENA FERNANDEZ - February 12, 2021 at 01:05 PM



“ *Sheila and family,*

Please accept our deepest condolences. George was a mentor and a friend. It was an honor and a privilege to know him. He will be missed.

*God bless,
The Moran's*

Mike Moran - February 08, 2021 at 01:15 PM



“ *Treasured Lilies Spray was purchased for the family of Rev. Mr. George Keator.*



February 04, 2021 at 11:31 AM



“ *Tom & Dede & family. purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Rev. Mr. George Keator.*



Tom & Dede & family. - February 03, 2021 at 06:24 PM



“ *Rebecca Knox lit a candle in memory of Rev. Mr. George Keator*



Rebecca Knox - February 03, 2021 at 03:20 PM



*Dear Keator family,
What a beautiful tribute to Deacon George in the paper. I never knew him personally, but got a feel for who he was from your heartfelt words. Surely he rests in the arms of our Lord & Savior. Sending prayers for peace and comfort in the days ahead.
My sincere condolences to you all. God bless.
Becky Knox
(former grade 3 teacher)*

Rebecca Knox - February 03, 2021 at 03:27 PM

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Dear Sheila and the Keator family,

When Michael Quigley passed away, one of the first people I called was George Keator. We wanted Mike's two oldest grandsons to be his Alter Servers, but it had been several years since they had served on the Altar so I asked George if he would be on the Altar, as well, so he could give them 'heads up' if need be. Of course, he agreed and I have been forever grateful.

It had been years since I had been a parishioner of St. Ann's , but everyone I knew used to comment on George's homilies . I understand every one was inspirational ~ and showed the huge amount of time he had spent preparing them.

On a lighter side, I cannot be on North St. in Pittsfield without glancing down at the Lichenstein Center for the Arts on Renne Ave. It must have been in the early 1960's and Mike, who was newly in the Real Estate Business, bought that building from the Sun Printing Co. He subsequently sold it to George for his printing business.

Being a part of the illustrious Nesbit/ Keator family, I know the hundreds of tales you share, but do be aware of the myriads of wonderful tales the rest of us share. George was a wonderful, amazing person! May he rest in peace...

God bless you all....

Fondly,

Adelene Quigley

Adelene Quigley - February 05, 2021 at 12:13 PM

AP

“ *Sheila & Family,*

We are so sorry to hear of George's passing. He was truly a great man one that will be missed by many. Keeping you all in our thoughts and prayers.

*Love Always,
Andrea Pignatelli-Simons*

Andrea Pignatelli - February 03, 2021 at 01:02 PM