

Rev. Anthony Joseph Becker

January 5, 1922 - January 15, 2015

Rev. Anthony J. Becker, age 93, of Franklin Grove, died Thursday, January 15, 2015, at the Franklin Grove Health Care Center. He was born January 5, 1922, in May Township, Lee County IL, the son of Antone and Margaret (Meister) Becker.

Father Tony began his seminary studies at age 13 in Columbus, Ohio, at Pontifical College Josephinum. He received his BA in Philosophy in 1943, and was ordained June 1, 1947. He remained at the college and taught Latin, Greek, Spanish and German for 11 years.

In 1950, he was awarded an MA in classical languages from Ohio State University. In 1958, Fr Becker began work towards a doctorate at Loyola University in Chicago, and graduated in 1960, with a PhD in Clinical Psychology and Education.

After receiving his doctorate he was appointed by the bishop as the first principal/ superintendent of Boylan Central Catholic High School in Rockford, IL.

In 1963, he was appointed Chaplain, Professor and Director of Psychological Services at St. Dominic College at St. Charles, a new college under the auspices of the Adrian Dominican Sisters. He remained there for 4 years before accepting a pastorate at St. Mary Church in Elgin IL, where he served until 1973. For the next three years he was in private practice in clinical psychology.

Returning to the pastorate, Father Becker served St. Mary Church in Oregon,

IL, from 1976 to 1984. That year, he completed a full circle and returned to his childhood home of Amboy and remained as pastor at St. Patrick Church in Amboy, IL, until his retirement in 1992.

Fr. Becker is the author of two books. He was a registered clinical psychologist in Illinois. Also, one of his fields of expertise is graphology, the art and science of analyzing handwriting. He's worked in the field for 29 years and in 1991, was chosen for the World's Who's Who in Graphology recognizing him as one of 200 experts in this field throughout the world. He was preceded in death by his parents; 3 sisters Mary Margaret Happ, Frances Fitzpatrick and Kathleen McCaffrey; 1 brother Walter Becker. Survivors include 1 sister Hilda Walzer of Mendota; and several nieces and nephews.

Mass of Christian Burial will be held Tuesday, January 20, 2015, beginning at 11:00 AM, in St. Patrick Catholic Church in Amboy, with the Most Rev. Bishop David Malloy, officiating. Visitation will be on Tuesday, January 20, 2015, from 9:00 to 11:00 AM in the church. Burial of cremains will be at a later date in St. Patrick Cemetery in Amboy. A memorial has been established to Josephinum Pontifical College in Columbus, Ohio.

Cemetery Details

St. Patrick Cemetery in Amboy

816 Rockyford Rd
Amboy, IL 61310

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 20. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Patrick Catholic Church in Amboy
32 N. Jones
Amboy, IL 61310
mail@stpatrickamboy.org
<http://www.stpatrickamboy.org>

Tribute Wall



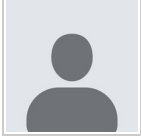
“ *Rev. Anthony Joseph Becker*

October 08, 2023 at 11:30 AM



“ *Rev. Anthony Joseph Becker*

December 31, 2022 at 02:40 AM



“ *Sympathy and comfort to the Becker family.*

I met Father Becker in 1970 as a new member of the American Association of Handwriting Analysts. I attended one of his programs and was fortunate to hear a very knowledgeable dynamic speaker. He had much information to impart and this made we want to continue my graphology studies.

Many years later, when he was speaking in Hillsdale, Michigan, the president of Handwriting Analysts International, of which I was a board member, was flying Tony and myself to the conference. Bob Martin picked Tony up first in his four-seat Mooney aircraft and then came to get me.

Tony was seated in the front seat. Tony graciously offered me the front seat and took a seat in the back.. When we landed in Michigan Bob whispered to me that Tony offered me the front seat because "he said he didn't want to be the first person at the scene of the accident, ha, ha."

Yes, he was also famous for his sense of humor. My friends and I miss his humor and his expertise.

Renee Contento

Renee Modla - March 15, 2015 at 01:08 PM

PM

“ *Father Becker baptized me when I was 21 years old and was the celebrant at my wedding. He was a kind and gentle man who made everyone feel comfortable. My greatest pleasure was getting to know him as Father Tony and working for him at St. Mary's Parish in Elgin, Il, in the mid to late 1960's and early 70's. He lead me to greater faith and acceptance of myself as person just by observing him being "himself". He also taught me handwriting analysis, which I still use today.*

My condolences to his family, friends, and spiritual colleagues on their loss. May he find eternal peace with his Lord. You will be missed by so many Father Tony. God Bless.

Pam Miller

Pamela Miller - January 25, 2015 at 10:57 AM

SM

“ *I had the honor of meeting Father Becker during nurse's training and he told me his favorite poem was "Hounds of Heaven", reciting the entire thing word for word. Such intelligence and warmth is a loss to the world...may he rest in peace.*

<http://www.houndsofheaven.com/thepoem.htm>

Stephanie McLean - January 19, 2015 at 11:07 PM

VW

“ *Father Becker came to Mt. Hope Cemetery in Elgin in November, 1967 for the the burial of our five day old daughter, Lisa Ann Wartenberg. He was a great comfort to us. Glen and Vivian Wartenberg.*

Vivian Wartenberg - January 19, 2015 at 07:13 PM

DQ

“ We offer our sincere sympathy and prayers to all of Father Becker's family. He leaves a legacy you can all be proud of. He was a faithful servant of our Lord and Savior and touched many lives throughout his lifetime.

Dwayne Doris Query - January 19, 2015 at 04:14 PM

LM

“ Father Becker (Father Tony) was a great man and priest. He was a wonderful spiritual leader at St. Pat's in Amboy. Recently my granddaughter got to know him from working at the nursing home, she loved him, she said he was always smiling and so warm hearted, that is the way he always was. May you Rest in Peace Father Tony. Your work here is done, you now have your Heavenly reward.

*Linda McDonald
Franklin Grove*

Linda McDonald - January 19, 2015 at 12:09 PM

GS

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Gary Schultz - January 17, 2015 at 01:31 PM

GS

“ *Father Becker was my Police Chaplain when I was Chief of Police in Amboy.*

Not only was he a great help when I needed assistance with a handwriting analysis, or a profile, his offered his spiritual advice, and friendship, which I will never forget.

It was an honor to work with such a good person who became a good friend, and colleague.

Thank you Father Becker, and may God's perpetual light shine upon you.

Gary Sylvia Schultz - January 17, 2015 at 01:06 PM

CB

“ *Fr. Tony was a long- time good friend of our family. He was a neighbor of Ron's and used to play catch with him. Fr. was a pitcher for the Amboy baseball team that my Dad played for and managed. Fr. braved a terrible snow storm in the late 50's to say mass at our home after Dad had a serious surgery. He also travelled to Florida to see Dad before he passed away. Whenever there was a need, Fr. Tony was there to help.*


Fr. was kind, a wonderful man and priest. He returned St. Annes school to our parish and did many good things for our community.

We are sad that he is gone but so glad that we knew him.

Ron and Carol Biester



Carol Biester - January 15, 2015 at 10:28 PM

 Jackie
James

“ *Such a saint that was brought into our lives when my dad was his roommate at the missing home in Franklin grove we loved him very much and will miss his kindness and love. God bless you Father Tony
Jeff and Jackie james*



Jackie James - January 15, 2015 at 08:23 PM