



“I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE” JN 11:25

January 18, 2018 – Please post

FATHER ALEXIS FREDERICK KIRSTEN, S.J.

Father Alex Kirsten, died on January 17, 2018 at Mount Sinai Hospital in Toronto, Ontario. He was 70-years-old and had been in religious life for 47 years. Alex was born on June 5, 1947 in Woodstock, Cape Town, South Africa, son of Alexander Edward Kirsten and Lilian Kathleen Veret. After attending Neil McNeil High School in Toronto and Central High School in Burlington, he completed a B.Sc. Zoology at the University of Guelph. He entered the Jesuit Novitiate at Guelph, ON in 1971. After the usual studies in Guelph and two years of teaching at Gonzaga High School in St. John’s, NL, he had a year of clinical pastoral training at the Atlantic School of Theology, with attachment to the Saint Mary’s University Community in Halifax, NS. Theology studies at Regis College in Toronto followed. He was ordained a priest on June 2, 1979 by Cardinal Gerald Emmett Carter.

After ordination, Alex went to work at St. Paul’s High School in Winnipeg, MB for 20 years. At first Alex served as a teacher and chaplain. For nine years Alex was the director of the apostolate at the school, serving as president and superior of the Jesuit community. In 1982, he spent a year in Oakland, CA for tertianship.

In 1999, Alex moved to the Jesuit community at 2 Dale, Toronto, ON, and served as the acting superior, Province treasurer, acting socius and revisor of finances for the houses of the Province. In 2004, Alex was appointed director of Martyrs’ Shrine, Midland, ON. He cherished the work at the Shrine and was there until 2011. He was responsible for setting up Martyrs’ Hall, an educational centre for school groups and pilgrims. At that time, he joined the Apostolate among the Native People at Manitoulin for two years. He was diagnosed with cancer and moved to Pickering for medical treatment. Restored to health, he served as the director of René Goupil House, the Infirmary in Pickering in 2013. In 2015, struggling with different bouts of bad health, he provided spiritual ministry at Manresa-Jesuit Spiritual Renewal Centre in Pickering. The last few months of his life while receiving bone marrow transplant treatment were difficult.

Alex had a relaxed easy manner and was appreciated by his friends. He had musical talents which he shared with others. He was given positions of leadership most of his life and served our Province well.

Would the members of the La Storta Jesuit Community celebrate two Masses for him and other members of the English Canadian Province one Mass.

SERVICES

WAKE

Sunday, January 21

7:00-9:00 pm

Chapel at Manresa, Pickering

Service at 8:00 pm

FUNERAL

Monday, January 22

10:30 am

Chapel at Manresa, Pickering

Followed by reception

BURIAL

Monday, January 22

2:30 pm

Jesuit Cemetery

Guelph

NEXT OF KIN

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REST IN PEACE

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