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## Catholic Diocese of Columbus

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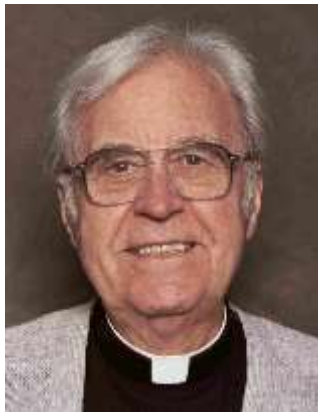
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# News

DATE: September 11, 2018

CONTACT: George Jones

### **FATHER SAULIUS LAURINAITIS PASSES AWAY**



COLUMBUS – Father Saulius Paul Laurinaitis, the oldest priest in the Diocese of Columbus, died on September 7, 2018 while in residence at Mother Angeline McCrory Manor.

The son of Jonas and Elena (Mazelyte) Laurinaitis, he was born on April 2, 1922, in Kaunas, Lithuania. He attended the Jesuit Fathers Elementary School in Kaunas, along with the equivalent of high school and college education at the Gimnazija “Aušra,” also in Kaunas. He studied philosophy at the Vytauto Didžiojo Universitetas and Archdiocesan Seminary in Kaunas, followed by theological studies as a refugee at the Katholische Universität in Eichstätt, Germany; the Gregorian University in Rome, Italy; and the Theological Seminary in Brixen, Austria. He was ordained a priest on December 18, 1948, by the Most Rev. Johannes Geisler, Bishop of Brixen.

Following ordination, Father Laurinaitis came to the United States in 1951 at the invitation of the Most Rev. Michael J. Ready, Bishop of Columbus. During his years of priestly ministry, he served at the St. Vincent Orphanage, Columbus; St. Joseph Academy, Columbus; Our Lady of Mercy School, Granville; and Immaculate Conception Parish, Kenton;

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He also served at Corpus Christi Parish, Columbus; St. Andrew Parish, Upper Arlington; Bishop Watterson High School, Columbus; Church of the Ascension, Johnstown; and Mission of the Nativity (Utica); as pastor, Blessed Sacrament Parish, Newark; pastor, St. Mary Church, Bremen; and assistant rector, St. Joseph Cathedral, Columbus. Father Laurinaitis also held positions as the Bishop's liaison with the Catholic Charismatic Renewal; associate pastor of St. Patrick Parish in Providence, Rhode Island; and chaplain of Doctor's West Hospital. After his retirement from priestly ministry in 1987, Father Laurinaitis remained active in Campus Crusade for Christ, Cum Christo, and Movement for a Better World; he also assisted at many parishes in the Diocese, especially at St. Brendan the Navigator Parish in Hilliard.

Calling hours for Father Laurinaitis will take place on Thursday, September 13, 2018, 4-7 p.m., with a Rosary prayed at 7 p.m., at St. Brendan the Navigator Church, 4475 Dublin Road, Hilliard. Calling hours will resume at the Church on Friday, September 14, at 10 a.m., concluding just prior to the 11 a.m. Mass of Christian Burial. The Most Rev. Frederick F. Campbell, Bishop of Columbus, will be the principal celebrant and preach the homily; Bishop Emeritus James A. Griffin will concelebrate, as will the priests of the Diocese. Burial will take place at St. Joseph Cemetery, Lockbourne.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Retired Priests Long-Term Care Fund, Diocese of Columbus, 198 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio, 43215.

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