

FATHER FINTAN SHEERAN, SS.CC.

1929 - 2024



Father Desmond P. (Fintan) Sheeran, ss.cc., a member of the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary-United States Province, passed away at St. Luke's Hospital in New Bedford, MA on Thursday, July 11, 2024. At the age of almost 95, he was the eldest member of the Province.

Born in Dublin, Ireland on August 27, 1929, to Laurence and Mary (Christopher) Sheeran, Fr. Fintan entered the Novitiate in Fairhaven in 1949, making his first profession of vows on September 14, 1950.

He attended the SSCC Major Seminary in Washington, DC from 1950 to 1955 and was ordained to the priesthood in Jaffrey, New Hampshire on September 24, 1955. He returned to Washington to study at Catholic University from 1956 to 1957 where he earned his STL (Licentiate in Sacred Theology).

He began his life of ministry as an SSCC by serving as Professor at Queen of Peace Seminary in Jaffrey, New Hampshire from 1957 through 1966 before returning to his beloved Ireland where, in 1966, he became the Director and a Professor at SSCC Cotehill.

Returning to the US in 1969, he was elected Provincial Superior of the SSCC East Coast Province, a position he held until 1976, when he was elected Vicar General of the SSCC Worldwide Congregation in Rome. He remained there until 1982. Following a one-year sabbatical and an internship in management design in Ohio, he returned to serve as a consultant, a facilitator, and a retreat director as well as the Director of the SSCC House of Studies in Cheverly, Maryland, a role he continued until 1996.

From 1966 through 2002 he served as Pastor at the SSCC administered parish of St. Margaret of Scotland in Seat Pleasant, MD. He then traveled to Quezon City in the Philippines upon his assignment as Director of the Damien House of Studies and ministered there until 2006, when he returned to St. Margaret until 2014. Following his departure from Seat Pleasant, Father Fintan continued his ministry as facilitator, retreat preacher, consultant, and mentor even after his "retirement" to Damien Residence – a remarkable religious journey spanning almost 75 years.

Father Fintan was pre-deceased by his brothers, Liam, Noel and Lawrence and his sister, Marie Burke. In addition to his vast SSCC family of brothers and sisters, he is survived by many beloved nieces, nephews, and cousins both in the US and in Ireland, and by countless friends.

His Funeral Mass will be celebrated at St. Joseph's Parish in Fairhaven, Massachusetts on Thursday, July 18, 2024, at 10:00 AM followed by burial in the Sacred Hearts Community Cemetery. Viewing hours will take place at Damien Residence Chapel on Wednesday, July 17, from 7:00 to 8:00 PM and on Thursday, July 18, at St. Joseph Church prior to the funeral, beginning at 9:00 AM. All are invited to attend a luncheon in honor of Father Fintan at Century House in Acushnet, immediately following the burial.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Father Fintan's memory may be made to the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts, PO Box 111, Fairhaven, MA 02719. Arrangements are being handled by Fairhaven Funeral Home who will live stream the funeral at <https://www.hathawayfunerals.com/locations/fairhaven.html>. May he rest in the Eternal Peace of the Hearts of Jesus and Mary.