

**Reverend Joseph Raymond Kern
October 11, 1930 – April 16, 2011**



Joseph R. Kern was born on October 11, 1930 in Indianapolis, Indiana to Henry Kern and Rose Marie Seiter. He attended St. Philip Neri grade school and Cathedral High School, both in Indianapolis. He attended Maryknoll Junior Seminary for 2 years and his seminary education was completed at St. Meinrad Minor Seminary and Major Seminary. He was ordained by Archbishop Schulte May 3, 1957 at St. Meinrad. His pastoral assignments included: 1957, associate pastor, St. Michael, Brookville; 1959, associate pastor, St. Michael, Charletown; 1964, administrator, St. Jude Spencer; 1965, chaplain, Muscatatuck State Hospital and Training Center; 1972 associate

pastor, St. Lawrence, Lawrenceburg; 1973 associate pastor pro tempore, Sacred Heart, Jeffersonville; 1973, co-pastor, St. Michael, Cannelton and St. Pius, Troy and associate pastor, St. Paul, Tell City; 1975, co-pastor St. Tell City and retaining his assignment as co-pastor at St. Michael and St. Pius; 1985, pastor, St. Joseph, Rockville, administrator, Immaculate Conception, Montezuma; 1997, dean of the Terre Haute Deanery, while continuing as pastor of St. Joseph and administrator of Immaculate Conception; 1997 administrator, Sacred Heart, Terre Haute while retaining current assignments; 1998 dean of Terre Haute Deanery while continuing as pastor of St. Joseph, Rockville and administrator of Immaculate Conception, Montezuma; 2001, granted permission to retire; continuing as dean, Terre Haute, and as priest moderator and sacramental minister of St. Paul, Greencastle; 2003 temporary administrator, St. Margaret Mary, Terre Haute will continuing as dean; 2007, reappointed dean, Terre Haute Deanery.

May the Risen Christ come to receive his faithful servant!

(See Special Extract on the Following Page)

Extract: St. Margaret Mary Bulletin, Weekend of May 8, 2011

Dear One and All:

I received a phone call yesterday from Bishop Coyne. He wanted me to know, and then pass on to you, that Father Joe Kern was named a Monsignor by Pope Benedict. This honor was bestowed upon Father Joe before his death, but word of it did not reach the Archdiocese until yesterday. Because this honor was bestowed upon Father Joe while he was still alive, it will be received posthumously at a liturgical celebration of such Papal awards this coming Fall (a date has not yet been set).

This is a wonderful gift for Father Joe – in spite of the fact that it would probably make him uncomfortable in his simplicity of life and service.

Let us continue to pray for Father Joe, and to ask for his prayers for us in the Terre Haute Deanery serving West-Central Indiana.

Father Rick Ginther

Pastor, St. Patrick & St. Margaret Mary Churches