

## Reverend-Father Ernest Frederick Deslippe

DESLIPPE, Reverend-Father Ernest Frederick - On April 5, 2011, Father Ernie Deslippe was gently and peacefully called home by God and born into eternal life. This took place after a lengthy illness at St. Thomas-Elgin General Hospital St. Thomas. Fr. Ernie was born in Harrow Ontario on March 20, 1929. He was the eldest son of the late Frederick and Loretta Deslippe (Monforton). He is predeceased by his brother Donald (2006) and nephew Paul (1987). Fr. Ernie is survived by Virginia (Gerry) Eansor, Joan (Jim) Golden, both of Harrow and Lawrence (Debbie) Deslippe of Windsor. He will be missed greatly by many nieces, nephews, step-nieces and step-nephews along with cousins, countless friends, parishioners and many people who were touched and affected by his fifty years of pastoral ministry. Fr. Ernie was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop John C. Cody on May 27, 1961 at St. Peter's Basilica, London Ontario. He celebrated his first Mass at St. Anthony of Padua parish in Harrow. Through his 50 years of ordained ministry, he served as associate pastor, Holy Angels Parish, St. Thomas (1961- 1965), Administrator, St. Joseph Mission, Port Stanley (1965-2008 [date coincides with the closure of St. Joseph]). He went to Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., from 1964-1965 for further studies in pastoral care for hospital ministry. Fr. Ernie also served faithfully and with great dedication at St. Joseph's Health Care— Regional Mental Health Care Facility, St. Thomas as Chaplain from 1965- 2008. In that time Fr. Ernie served the needs of both patients and staff with great compassion and care. Upon retirement in 2008, he resided and offered sacramental ministry at St. Anne's Parish, St. Thomas. The family and those who connected Fr. Ernie's care would like to gratefully acknowledge with heartfelt thanks all those who visited him especially the members of the Knights of Columbus Council 1467 (he served them as chaplain for 47 years) along with the parishioners of Holy Angels, St. Joseph, Port Stanley and St. Anne's. They would also like to give heartfelt thanks for the tremendous care and devotion from the staff of Metcalfe Gardens Retirement Home, St. Thomas and the doctors, nurses and staff of St. Thomas Elgin General Hospital especially the fifth floor AMU. A special mention is to be given to Mary Lou, staff nurse of AMU who showed great compassion and care to Fr. Ernie. Visitation will happen on Thursday, April 7, 2011 at St. Anne's Church, 20 Morrison Drive, St. Thomas, Ontario from 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm. and 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm. On Friday, April 8, 2011, visitation will be from 10:00 am until 11:00am when the Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at St. Anne's Church, St. Thomas. Vigil prayers and Knights of Columbus prayers will be said at 7:00pm. on Thursday evening. Fr. Ernie's body will be transported to Harrow, Ontario where there will be visitation Monday from 10:00 am until the time of the Mass at 11:00 am at St. Anthony of Padua, 120 Munger Street West, Harrow. Interment will immediately follow at Colchester Cemetery, Harrow, Ontario. Donations can be made to the charity of your choice in honour of Fr. Deslippe. Funeral arrangements being made through **WILLIAMS FUNERAL HOME**, 45 Elgin Street, St. Thomas, Ontario. 9993458