



Leonard Raymond "Lenny" Spanjers

February 10, 2017

Spanjers, Leonard (Lenny) Raymond, 89, died peacefully of natural causes Friday, February 10, 2017, at Essex Nursing Home. He leaves his wife Glenda (Clark) Spanjers; and their children, Kelly, Donetta, Mary, Shane, Summer, Ashlee, Robert, Kara Jo, Thomas, Micah, Daniel, Jeffrey, Joseph, Jakeb, Nicole, Stephen, Lennie Rose ; and many grandchildren; and great grandchildren. He was born in Racine, Wisconsin on October 22, 1927, and preceeded in death by his parents, Raymond and Greta (Verwey) Spanjers; along with three siblings, Bertha (Rademacher), John, and Raymond (Butch) Spanjers. After graduating from St. Catherine's High in 1945, he went into the Seminary in 1946, and joined the Glenmary Missioners of Cincinnati, Ohio in 1950, where he was ordained a Priest in 1954 and became know to everyone as 'Father Lenny'. He received a Masters Degree in Education and lived a life of service to others as a counselor, teacher, and father, and served as a missionary to the people of Dahlenega in the mountains of Georgia while in the Priesthood. After his service with Glenmary, he chose to carry on the Lord's work by marrying and raising many children. He met his wife Glenda Hamilton at a dance and they were married in 1985. Together they were loving parents to over 30 foster children. He was a Great Father to many. Lenny was Dutch and had many living relatives in Holland whom he visited, and loved to travel the backroads of America. He was an avid sports fan and runner, and received an award in Germany for a race he won. He had a great voice, loved music and dancing, and would break into song frequently. Lenny had a dry

sense of humor and laughed often, but most of all he loved children, saw their talents, and brought out the best in them. His Christlike life was an example to everyone. He personified the saintly virtues of kindness, patience, generosity, joyfulness and wisdom. He will always be remembered for his spiritual selflessness and faith in God which was his strength and core of love, that subtly radiated from his warm and humble personality. He was a Great Soul. A funeral Mass will be held 10:00 A.M. Saturday at Mary Queen of Peace Catholic Church, 4005 Dixie Highway. Visitation will be 2:00 – 8:00 P.M. Friday at Owen Funeral Home, 5317 Dixie Highway. A special thanks to all the staff at Essex Nursing Home for their loving care. Memorial Gifts to the family c/o Owen Funeral Home.

Tribute Wall

CS

“Dad, I never had a chance to tell you how much I love you, thank you for always being there for me. You can't imagine how much love I have for you. I know you're in a better place looking down but I want you back with us. Ashlee did an amazing job and I knew you would have loved it. We all miss you, we all love you. It doesn't seem real but I know I have to accept the fact you are no longer here. Just please look over us and know we will try our best to make you proud. I love you can't wait to see you again.

Clarissa spanjers - June 28, 2018 at 04:39 PM

JL

“Kara Jo you were one the special people to walk the halls of Conway Middle School and I'm not the only one to think so. I hope this message finds you well, considering the circumstances. I met several times with your father (and mother) and could see just how special they were as well. It was evident how much you were loved. A pair of large shoes are left for all of us to fill.

John Layer - June 28, 2018 at 04:39 PM

JH

“Uncle Len was one of the best people I have ever known. When we were kids, Uncle Len used to take all of us to North Beach on Lake Michigan to play football. All of my male cousins thought they were tough, but Uncle Len used to let the girls play, too. He would always hand off or pass to the girls because the boys wouldn't cover us and we would score the touchdowns. He had room in his heart for everyone! Lots of love and prayers for my Kentucky cousins.

Jeni (Rademacher) Van Hoesen - June 28, 2018 at 04:39 PM

MJ

“ So sorry to hear about your dad's passing, Mary. You and your family are in our thoughts during this difficult time. You have always spoken so highly of your parents.

Sincerely,
The Jones Family

Mellisa Jones - June 28, 2018 at 04:39 PM