Mass of Christian Burial

Reverend Richard M. Gantert

"...act justly, love tenderly and walk humbly with your God."
Micah 6:8

Born: April 28, 1949
Ordained a Priest: May 24, 1975
Born to eternal life: April 19, 2006

April 25, 2006
11:00 a.m.
St. Paul the Apostle Church
Memphis, Tennessee
INTRODUCTORY RITES

Greeting

Sprinkling with Holy Water

Placing of the Pall

Processional Hymn

“City of God,” Daniel L. Schutte

VERS 1, 2

1. Awake from your slumber!
2. We are sons of the morning:

1. A-rise from your sleep!
2. We are daughters of day.

1. Dawn-ing for all those who weep.
2. Loved us has bright-ened our way.

1. The peo-ple in dark-ness have seen a great light.
2. The Lord of all kind-ness has called us to be a light for his peo-ple.

1. Has con-quered the night.
2. To set their hearts free.

REFRAIN

Let us build the cit-y of God.

May our tears be turned in-to danc-ing!

For the Lord, our light and our love,

- has turned the night in-to day!
Verse 3

3. God____ is light;____ in him there is no

3. darkness. Let us walk in his light, his

3. children, one and all.

3. O comfort my people;____ make gentle your

3. words. Proclaim to my city____ To Refrain

3. the day of her birth____

Verse 4

4. O city of gladness,____ now lift up your

4. voice! Proclaim the good tidings____ To Refrain

4. that all may rejoice!

City of God
Text: Based on Isaiah 9, 1 John 1; Dan Schutte. Music: Dan Schutte. Text & Music © 1984, Daniel L. Schutte
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Placing of Christian Symbols

Opening Prayer

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading Acts 10:34-43

Response

Response: Jesus, Jesus, Jesus! There’s just something about that name!
Master, Savior, Jesus! Like the fragrance after the rain:
Jesus, Jesus, Jesus! Let all heaven and earth proclaim: Kings and kingdoms
will all pass away, but there’s something about that name!
Second Reading

Gospel Acclamation

"Melchizedek Alleluia," Roger Smith

Gospel

Homily

General Intercessions

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Preparation of the Gifts and Altar

"How Can I Keep from Singing," Robert Lowry
How Can I Keep From Singing

Text: 87 87 with refrain; arr. in Bright Jewels for the Sunday School, 2869, adapt. by Robert Lowry, 1826-1899, alt.
Music: ENDLESS SONG, Quaker Hymn.

Holy, Holy, Holy

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Memorial Acclamation

“We Remember,” Marty Haugen

REFRAIN

We remember how you loved us to your death,
and still we celebrate, for you are with us here;
And we believe that we will see you when you come
in your glory, Lord. We remember, we celebrate, we believe.

Concluding Acclamation

“Amen”

3. Amen, alleluia, for ever and ever, for ever, alleluia, for ever and ever. Amen.

Amen

Music: St. Louis Jesuits, © 1973, Robert J. Dufford, SJ, and Daniel L. Schutte. Administered by New Dawn Music. All rights reserved. Used with permission. License # RN3054414.1

The Lord’s Prayer

Sign of Peace

COMMUNION RITE
Lamb of God

"Lamb of God Litany"

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. {Choir verse}
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. {Choir verse}
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. {Choir verse}
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. {Choir verse}
(Final verse)
Lamb of God, you lay down your life for the world: O grant us, O grant us, your peace.

Communion

"Love Was When," Don Wyrtzen & John E. Walvoord

"When the Sun is Still Shinin'", Randi Gantert Kelly
Composer, Randi Kelly, is the niece of Father Rick

"Galilee Song,"

Deep within my heart I feel—voices whispering to me...
words that I can’t understand...meanings I must clearly hear.
Calling me to follow close....lest I leave myself behind.
Calling me to walk into....evening shadows one more time.

REFRAIN
So I leave my boats behind. Leave them on familiar shores.
Set my heart upon the deep. Follow You again, my Lord.

In my memories I know...how You send familiar rains;
falling gently on my days....dancing patterns on my pain.
And I need to learn once more...in the fortress of my mind:
to believe in falling rain....as I travel deserts dry!

REFRAIN

As I gaze into the night.....down the future of my years,
I’m not sure I want to walk....past horizons that I know!
But I feel my spirit called....like a stirring deep within..
Restless ‘till I live again....beyond the fears that close me in.

REFRAIN

Galilee Song
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Communion Meditation

"Spread Out Your Wings," Larry Hodges

Prayer after Communion
FINAL COMMENDATION

Invitation to Prayer

Song of Farewell

"In Paradisum," Adapt. by Steve Schaubel
Tune of "Danny Boy," Irish melody

May choirs of angels lead you into paradise, and may the martyrs come to welcome you
To bring you home into the holy city, so you may dwell in new Jerusalem.
May holy angels be there at your welcoming, with all the saints who go before you there,
That you may know the peace and joy of paradise; that you may enter into everlasting rest.

Prayer of Commendation

Procession to the Place of Committal

Recessional Song

"And the Father Will Dance,"

REFRAIN

Vigorously

And the Fa- ther will dance as on a day of joy.

He will ex- ult o- ver you and re-

[to Verses]

1. 2.

new you by His love. love.

Last time

love. He will re- new you by His love!

VERSE 1

Shout for joy, all you, His peo- ple.

Sing a- loud and ex- ult with all your

[to Refrain]

heart, for—Yah-weh, your God is in your midst.
VERSE 2

You have no more evil to fear. You have
no more evil to fear. Do not let your hands fall
(lipt, for Yah-weh, your God is in your midst.
(to Refrain)

VERSE 3

And when the time comes I will rescue the
lame, and when the time comes I will gather the
strays, and when the time comes I will be your
guide. I will gather you in and
(to Refrain)

give you renown among all peoples.
Ministers of the Liturgy

Presiding Celebrant  
Bishop of Memphis in Tennessee

Homilist  
Rev. John B. McArthur  
Pastor, St. Louis Catholic Church

Concelebrating Priests  
Rev. Msgr. Peter Buchignani, V.G.  
Vicar General, Diocese of Memphis

Rev. Robert D. Ponticello, E.V.  
Episcopal Vicar, Diocese of Memphis

Rev. Richard Cortese  
Associate Pastor, St. Paul the Apostle

Rev. Delfin "Dennis" Manzano, Jr.  
Associate Pastor, St. Paul the Apostle

Priests of the Diocese of Memphis

Master of Ceremonies  
Rev. J. Keith Stewart  
Director of Vocations, Diocese of Memphis

Deacons  
Rev. Mr. Bill Herbers  
Rev. Mr. James P. Schmall

Lectors  
Andy Burns  
Chris Micallef

Gift Bearers  
Emma Covello, Katie Covello, Kristi Fulmer,  
Lyndsey Gantert, Jennifer Janssen, Randi Gantert Kelly, Jessica Riden

Ministers of Music  
St. Paul Church Combined Choir; The Formal Choir,  
Contemporary Choir, and Schola Choir  
Cathy Weirich, Director  
Carolyn Magnini, Organist/Pianist  
Melvin Brooks, Larry Hodges & Cathy Weirich, Della Lambert, Soloists

Liturgy & Music Preparation  
Cathy Weirich  
Administrative Assistant, St. Paul the Apostle

Program  
Mary Jo Hoffsmommer & Brian O'Donnell, St. Louis Church
Rev. Richard M. Gantert

Father Rick Gantert lived and loved and laughed with a unique sense of wonder, a keen respect for reality, and an honest appreciation for the unique beauty and potential in every person and every situation. He died Wednesday April 19 at Johns Hopkins University Hospital in Baltimore. With the support of his devoted family, friends and doctors, Father Rick struggled bravely with leukemia for the past two years. He has touched the hearts of countless people and will be forever a part of our lives.

Born in Minneapolis on April 28, 1949, the son of the late Tom and Bee Gantert, Father Rick's family moved to Memphis during his childhood. He attended St. Therese the Little Flower School in Memphis, and was a graduate of Catholic High in 1967. Father Rick attended St. Ambrose College in Davenport, Iowa graduating in 1971. In September of the same year, he entered Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans, and was ordained a priest on May 24, 1975 at St. Therese the Little Flower Church. Father Rick served as Associate Pastor at the Cathedral, then St. Louis Church and later at Holy Spirit Church. He served as pastor of St. Mary Church in Camden, TN from 1981-1987...pastor of Our Lady of Sorrows Church, Memphis from 1987-2000...and was made pastor of St. Paul Church, Memphis in 2000.

Father Rick also served in several Diocesan roles. He did prison ministry for a number of years, was the Secretary of Catholic Schools for the Diocese, served on the Presbyteral Council, the Diocesan Finance Council and was a member of the College of Consultants. He was also a member of the Tennessee Public Policy Commission, the public policy voice of the Catholic Church in Tennessee.

Father Rick marveled at the beauty of scripture, the Baptism of a new baby niece, the abundance of an early morning market in Jerusalem, a perfect putt at the 18th hole, a nephew's burst of insight, a Grizzlies game. He had the highest hopes for those Tigers! He brought humor and joy to each of our lives while holding us to the highest expectations. He listened to our needs and our hearts. He encouraged us to become the change we hoped to see in the world while reminding us that God does not expect us to be perfect.

Most Reverend J. Terry Steib, SVD, Bishop of the Memphis Diocese said of Father Rick Gantert: "I've known Father Gantert since I first arrived in Memphis. He was a thoughtful, caring priest. He was also a friend and I will miss his wise counsel and straightforward awareness of the people around him to whom he ministered. Rick was a friend of the poor and a careful advocate for justice. He recognized his illness for what it was and fought it valiantly. But there is consolation for his fellow priests and me in knowing that God has called him home at this Easter season. As St. Paul puts it: 'In life and in death we are the Lord's.' I extend my sympathy and prayers to Father Gantert's family, and to the faith community at St. Paul Church in Whitehaven."

Father Rick is survived by his six sisters and brother: Mary Micallef and Charlie Campbell of Bitburg, her three sons and five grandchildren; Cathy Hughes of Franklin, TN, her husband Bob, their three children and two grandchildren; Barbara Covello of Pleasantville, NY, her three children; Stephanie Sisk of Southaven, MS, her husband Harold, their four children and six grandchildren; Laurie Meddings of Bozeman, MT, her husband Greg and their son; Terry Gantert of Southaven, MS, and her daughter; and Tom Gantert of Charlotte, NC, his wife Maggie and their two children, and Father Rick's aunts, uncles and cousins.

Rick studied Christ's words and walked in His footsteps. He comforted, counseled and cared for each of us in His name. Imagine the conversations they're having right now! Long ago Rick began his journey to Christ, and he's left each of us with a higher, clearer and steadier path to follow—and a good personal friend along the way.
"A Thought on Dying"

I am standing upon the seashore.
A ship at my side spreads his white sails to the morning breeze
and starts for the blue ocean.
He is an object of beauty and strength. I stand and watch him until at length
he hangs like a speck of white cloud
just where the sea and sky come to mingle with each other.
Then someone at my side says: "There, he is gone!"
"Gone where?"
Gone from my sight. That is all.
He is just as large in mast and hull and spar as he was when he left my side
and he is just as able to bear his load of living freight to his destined port.
His diminished size is in me, not in him.
And just at the moment when someone at my side says: "There, he is gone!"
There are other eyes watching him coming,
and other voices ready to take up the glad shout: "Here he comes!"
And that is dying.

*Henry Van Dyke*