FUNERAL MASS

18TH JUNE 2021

FR. LAWRENCE NIEMIEROWICZ SVD
(Fr. Larry Nemer)

DATE OF BIRTH: 24th November 1932
BORN TO ETERNAL LIFE: 9th June 2021
**Processional Hymn: Come As You Are**

Come as you are, that's how I want you.
Come as you are, feel quite at home.
Close to my heart, loved and forgiven;
come as you are, why stand alone.

No need to fear, love sets no limits.
No need to fear, love never ends.
Don't run away, shamed and dishearten’d.
Rest in my love, trust me again.

I came to call sinners, not just the virtuous.
I came to bring peace, not to condemn.
Each time you fail to live by my promise,
why do you think I'd love you the less?

Come as you are, that's how I love you.
Come as you are, trust me again.
Nothing can change the love that I bear you.
All will be well, just come as you are.

©Deirdre Browne ibvm, Spectrum Publications

**Words of welcome: Presider: Fr Nick de Groot SVD**

**Lighting of the Paschal Candle**

**Presider:** In Baptism Larry received the light of Christ. This light guided him through his life.

**All:** May Christ, the eternal light, welcome Larry into his Kingdom of everlasting peace and love.

**Sprinkling with Baptismal Water**

**Presider:** In the waters of baptism, Larry died with Christ and rose with Him to new life.

**All:** May Larry now share with Him in eternal glory.
Placing of the Pall

Presider: In Baptism Larry was clothed in the white garment which is the outward sign of our Christian dignity as sons and daughters of God.

All: May Larry stand before the Lamb of God dressed in the white robe of salvation.

Placing of other symbols

Eulogy – Fr. Michael Hardie SVD

Opening Prayer

Presider: Let us pray:

God, look kindly on your servant, Larry, whom you have embraced into eternal life. He has been a guide and friend to us in our lives. As Larry served you faithfully throughout his life, give him the fullness of Your peace and joy. Help us to receive and understand your Gospel, so that we may find light in this darkness, faith in our doubts and comfort for one another in your saving words. We ask this through Christ our Saviour.

All: Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 25:6-9

On this mountain, the God of hosts will prepare for all peoples a banquet of rich food. On this mountain God will remove the mourning veil covering all peoples, and the shroud enwrapping all nations, God will destroy Death for ever.
God will wipe away the tears from every cheek; God will take away the people’s shame everywhere on earth, for God has said so. That day, it will be said: See, this is our God in whom we hoped for salvation; God is the one in whom we hoped. We exult and we rejoice that God has saved us.

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**Responsorial psalm (Psalm 103)**

*Response: The salvation of the just comes from the Lord.*

The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. He will not always accuse, nor will he keep his anger forever. *(Response.)*

As a father has compassion for his children, so the Lord has compassion for those who love him. For he knows how we were made; he remembers that we are dust. *(Response.)*

As for mortals, their days are like grass; they flourish like a flower of the field; for the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place knows it no more. *(Response.)*

But the steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him, and his righteousness to children's children, to those who keep his covenant and remember to do his commandments. *(Response.)*

**Second Reading: Acts 11: 19-26**

Now those who were scattered because of the persecution that took place over Stephen travelled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch,
and they spoke the word to no one except Jews. But among them were some men of Cyprus and Cyrene who, on coming to Antioch, spoke to the Hellenists also, proclaiming the Lord Jesus. The hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number became believers and turned to the Lord. News of this came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. When he came and saw the grace of God, he rejoiced, and he exhorted them all to remain faithful to the Lord with steadfast devotion; for he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great many people were brought to the Lord. Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. So it was that for an entire year they met with the church and taught a great many people, and it was in Antioch that the disciples were first called “Christians.”

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation:
Alleluia, alleluia!
This is the will of my Father, says the Lord, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given to me, and that I should raise them up on the last day. Alleluia!

Gospel: John 14:1-6
Jesus said to his disciples: ‘Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God still, and trust in me. There are many rooms in my Father’s house; if there were not, I should have told you. I am going now to prepare a place for you, and after I have gone and prepared you a place, I shall return to take you with me; so that where I am you may be too. You know the way to the place where I am going. Thomas said, “Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?” Jesus said: ‘I am the Way, the Truth and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.”

The Gospel of the Lord.
All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.
Homily: Fr. Rass SVD

Prayers of the Faithful:

Presider: God raised our Savior Jesus Christ from the dead; with confidence we place our prayers before our loving God.

Reader: Heavenly Father, we thank you for the gift of Larry’s life, his dedication, his service, his gentle presence and camaraderie in the community. Lord hear us. Response: Lord hear our prayer.

Reader: We remember Larry, our brother and our friend and we thank you Lord for the special gifts that Larry shared with his confreres – kindness, spirituality, compassion and his greatest gift - humility. Lord hear us.
Response: Lord hear our prayer.

Reader: Larry dedicated a major part of his life to teaching in Theologates in Techny, Chicago, London and finally in Melbourne. We pray Lord, that all those to whom he ministered and spread your Word, will continue to place their faith, trust and hope in You. Lord hear us.
Response: Lord hear our prayer.

Reader: Larry grew increasingly open to the many challenges he faced. He was well supported by his friends and his confreres. We pray that those who continue to face challenges may gain the courage and resilience to endure. Lord hear us. Response: Lord hear our prayer.

Reader: We pray for Larry’s family, friends and SVD confreres who have come together today to mourn his death. May they be comforted in their loss knowing that Larry is resting peacefully in the arms of our loving God. Lord hear us. Response: Lord hear our prayer.

Reader: We pray for all those who gently cared for Larry in Box Hill, here in the Marsfield Community, and nurses and doctors in SAN Hospital, where he spent the last days of his life in a peaceful and happy environment. Lord hear us. Response: Lord hear our prayer.
Presider: God our shelter and our strength, you listen in love to the cry of your people. Hear the prayers we place before you in the name of Jesus our Lord.
All: Amen

Offertory Hymn: I Have Loved You

Refrain:
I have loved you with an everlasting love,
I have called you and you are mine;
I have loved you with an everlasting love,
I have called you and you are mine.

Seek the face of the Lord and long for him:
He will bring you his light and his peace. (Refrain)

Seek the face of the Lord and long for him:
He will bring you his joy and his hope. (Refrain)

Michael Joncas, GIA Publications, 1979

Holy, Holy, Holy

Memorial Acclamation
When we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.

The Lord’s Prayer: (Recited)
Lamb of God
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

Copyright for all above: 2010 Colin D Smith cfc and Paul Mason, Published by Willow Connection
Communion Hymn: I’ll Be Always Loving You

1. I am here with you by your side,
   Sheltering your heart from the night.

Refrain: Wherever you go, whatever you do,
          I’ll be always loving you.

Bridge:   I will be your God, your comforter.
          I will hold you close in my heart.

2. Let me love the world through your heart,
   Let me heal your wounds with my touch.

Refrain: Wherever you go, whatever you do,
          I’ll be always loving you.

Bridge:   I will be your God, your comforter.
          I will hold you close in my heart.

3. Let me see the world through your eyes.
   Let forgiveness shine through your smile.

Refrain


Prayer after Communion:
Let us pray: Loving God, whose days are without end and whose mercy beyond measure, keep us mindful that life is short, and the hour of death unknown. Let your Spirit guide our days on earth in the ways of holiness and justice, and when our earthly journey is ended, lead us rejoicing into the fullness of your presence, where you live forever and ever.

All: Amen

Words of Remembrance:
FINIAL COMMENDATION: Fr. Raja SVD

Presider: Trusting in God, we have prayed together for Larry and now we come to the last farewell.

There is sadness in parting, but we take comfort in the hope that one day we shall see him again and enjoy his friendship. Although we will go our ways in sorrow, the mercy of God will gather us together again in the joy of the kingdom. Therefore, let us console one another in the faith of Jesus Christ.

(The coffin is now incensed as a sign of respect)

Presider: May Christ, who called you, Larry, take you to Himself; may angels lead you to the bosom of Abraham.

All: Receive Larry’s soul and present him to God the Most High.

Presider: Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him.

All: Receive Larry’s soul and present him to God the Most High.

Presider: Into your hands, God of mercies, we commend our brother Larry, in the sure and certain hope that, together with all who have died in Christ, he will rise with Christ on the last day. We give you thanks for the blessings that you bestowed upon Larry in this life; they are signs to us of your goodness and of our union with the saints in Christ. We pray together:

All: Merciful God, turn toward us and listen to our prayers. Open the gates of paradise to Your servant Larry and help us who remain, to comfort one another until we all meet in Christ and are with you and our brother Larry forever. We ask this through Christ our Saviour. Amen.

Presider: In peace, let us take Larry’s body to its place of rest.
**Recessional Hymn: You Are Mine**

I will come to you in the silence  
I will lift you from all your fears  
You will hear My voice  
I claim you as My choice  
Be still, and know I am here  
I am hope for all who are hopeless  
I am eyes for all who long to see  
In the shadows of the night, I will be your light  
Come and rest in Me

**Refrain**  
Do not be afraid, I am with you  
I have called you each by name.  
Come and follow Me,  
I will bring you home;  
I love you and you are mine.

I am strength for all the despairing  
Healing for the ones who dwell in shame  
All the blind will see, the lame will all run free  
And all will know My name. **Refrain**

*Copyright for all above: 1991, David Haas, Published by Gia Publications*

**Following Mass the coffin will be taken to Macquarie Park Crematorium for cremation as requested by Fr. Larry**

```
~~~~~***~~~~~

“Weep not that he has gone but smile that he has been”

~~~~~***~~~~~

The family of Fr. Larry Nemer SVD

and

Members of the Society of the Divine Word

teach you for your presence and your prayers.

~~~~~***~~~~~
```
Larry with friends in Melbourne

Larry with his beloved sisters Dodie, Grace and Virginia