



Father Joseph W. Koterski, S.J., a member of the Board of Directors, was called home by the Lord on August 9, 2021 in Ender Island, Connecticut where he was leading a retreat. Father Joseph was 67.

The Society of Jesuit announced that the wake will be held on **Tuesday, August 17, from 9:30 to 11 a.m. at the University Church**, located at 2691 Southern Blvd, Bronx, N.Y., 10458. The funeral will begin at 11 a.m. This will be **Live Streamed** at https://www.fordham.edu/info/27347/university_church_live_stream

Father Joseph, a holy priest was tireless, joyful and humble who deeply loved his vocation. August 9 was a long day of leading retreat and offering spiritual guidance. On his way to Vesper, God called him home. His last tasks in life were what Father most loved, talking about God, guiding retreatant a little closer to Him.

Besides having a full time teaching position as Professor in Philosophy and providing guidance to 100 plus Freshman at Fordham University, he also taught part-time at 3-4 seminaries in New York and Connecticut. Taking advantage of the summer recess at the university and seminaries, he happily accepted many requests to lead retreats for religious communities across the US. At the retreats he offered individual spiritual guidance to the sisters, and became spiritual director to many for many years.

This highly intellectual, accomplished scholar and a prolific writer was in fact a humble person, humorous, insightful and practical. He was able to present a complex subject at any level to meet his audience. Very generous with his time, his friends, new and old, all felt a great loss at his passing.

Father had a deep interest in modern martyrs. He talked about the importance and urgency to learn from the accounts of prisoners of conscience in Russia, China

and other countries. He said that a good understanding of the method and purpose of the persecutors was essential to survive future persecution physically, psychologically and spiritually. He declared that Cardinal Kung was his hero, the model for the universal church.

Although Father Joseph was overloaded with work and commitments, he always have time for the Cardinal Kung Foundation, sometimes even at very short notice. When we needed his advice, whether on a small or complex situation, he would analyze the problem quickly and clearly and offer us a workable recommendation.

Father Joseph was frequently the celebrant of many special masses and speaker at events in our neighboring dioceses. He often mentioned Cardinal Kung and encouraged others to check out the Foundation's website to participate in a program to help the persecuted church. Just like his many friends, we at the Foundation feel a big personal loss at his passing. However, I am confident that Father will continue to assist us and to intercede for the Cardinal Kung Foundation and the persecuted church.

We are fortunate that Father Joseph left us many recordings at EWTN, YouTube, etc. Here are two links to recordings that may interest you:

<https://soundcloud.com/churchofsaintagnes> A year ago, he recorded "***the life of Cardinal Kung Pin-me*** on 'Quick Talks', a program at St. Agnes Church, MN. This 15-minute recording is an effective introduction to anyone who might not know about the persecution in China or Cardinal Kung.

<https://youtu.be/l5uJZUbXQQY> An interview of Father Koterski a few years ago by Fr. Groeschel on ***The Resurrection***, on **EWTN Sunday Night Live**.

The news of his sudden death arrived the underground church. Condolences arrived promising Masses and prayers for eternal rest and in thanksgiving for the life of Father Joseph Koterski. Please join the Board of Directors of the Cardinal Kung Foundation together with the underground clergy and religious to pray for the repose of the soul of Father Joseph Koterski, S.J.