



Donald Sparling

September 20, 1949 - August 31, 2021

Deacon Donald (Don) Sparling, Ph.D. left this earth behind and joined his parents, Donald Sr and Lorraine on August 31, 2021.

Donald was a man with many hats, and he wore them well.

During his life he was a wildlife research ecologist for Fish and Wildlife Services and an educator where he taught at both Prince George's community college and Southern Illinois University, He also taught for Holy Apostles seminary in Connecticut.

He was an active member of the congregation at St. Andrew Catholic Church in Murphysboro, Illinois. He was ordained as a deacon in Washington D.C. in 2000. His Ministry led him to bring the word of God to the incarcerated as well as offer guidance to those in hospice. He was also a chairman of Catholic Charities of Southern Illinois.

He founded the Family Outreach Center along with his wife in Murphysboro, IL where he was able to offer various forms of assistance to those in the community.

The most important hat Don wore was that of a loving husband, father, and grandfather.

He was always quick with his sense of humor and a hug. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, boating and traveling with his wife.

He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Paulette Sparling, his son Justin Sparling, Daughter Jessica Casagrande, son-in-law Paul Casagrande, and his grandson Bentley Sparling along with numerous friends and family.

This world was a better place by having him in it and he will be missed.

Funeral Mass will be held at 12 p.m. Wednesday, September 8, 2021, at St. Andrew Church, with Father Gary Gummersheimer and Bishop Michael G. McGovern officiating.

Visitation will be from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Wednesday at St. Andrew Church in Murphysboro, Illinois.

In Lieu of flowers Deacon Don and his family would like for you to make donations to Family Outreach Center, 202 N. 14th Street Murphysboro, Illinois 62966

For more information, please visit www.pettettfuneralhome.com.

Tribute Wall



“ *Donald Sparling*

October 23, 2023 at 06:26 AM



“ *I have so many shared memories with Paulette, Don and their family, and I've only been friends with them for the last 11 years.*

Allison Carroll - September 04, 2021 at 01:37 PM