



John Hooper

January 21, 1938 - March 24, 2022

John S. Hooper was born January 21, 1938. He was the eldest of three sons born to John and Kathleen FitzGerald Hooper in Boston, MA. When he was 6 months old, his Dad was transferred to Michigan by the railroad company and the family moved to Michigan. His family lived in Wyandotte and then Lincoln Park, towns downriver from Detroit.

From ninth grade, John began attending the Sacred Heart Seminary in Detroit, Michigan, where he graduated from both high school and college and was valedictorian for both classes. He then attended the North American College in Rome, Italy, and on December 18, 1963, was ordained to be a Catholic priest in Rome. Upon his return to Detroit, John was a priest for the Archdiocese of Detroit and was assigned as associate pastor at St. Paschal Parish in Taylor, Michigan, where he served for a few years. John also taught at Cardinal Mooney High School, which was the high school at Sacred Heart Seminary. In 1969, John was assigned to the Vicar for Parishes Office where he ministered for five years. During the early 1970s John was the priest member of the Anawim small faith community in Grosse Pointe.

In 1974, John chose to take his pastoral ministry in another direction. He did community organizing with Pontiac Ecumenical Ministry (PEM), where he continued to work through much of the 1980s. In 1988 John co-founded the McGehee Loan Fund for the Episcopal Diocese of Michigan and served as its

first Executive Director until his retirement in the early 2000s. The fund accepted donations from individuals and groups and made loans to small businesses not eligible for loans from banks. John was also very active in the Episcopal Network of Economic Justice (ENEJ). As one of his colleagues put it, "John was the historian and intellectual voice in the Episcopal Network for Economic Justice. He is the hero of economic justice."

Following retirement in 2003, John continued his social justice activism and ministry, cofounding Catholics for the Common Good, as well as, the Gloryland Housing Committee at Gesu Church in Detroit. He also co-authored Gesu's Welcome Statement and was very active in Gesu's Peace and Justice Committee.

John was a family man. In 1975, John married Patricia Harrington, and at John's passing they were married for nearly 47 years. In the early years, they lived in Pontiac, Michigan where they raised their child, Marty Hooper. In 1998, they moved to the University District in Detroit, Michigan, where he lived for the remaining 24 years of his life.

John was a kind and gentle man and very active in all of the communities where he lived and parishes he attended. He continued to be pastoral, officiating at wakes and weddings for family and friends, and acting as a spiritual counselor to many.

John passed peacefully on March 24, 2022 after living several years with dementia. John is survived by his wife, Patricia Harrington, his son Martin "Marty" Hooper (Yeny Pardini), granddaughter Chloe "Cece" Hooper, his brother Gilbert "Gil" (Danielle), his nieces Michelle Hooper (Andy Hignite) and Mary Irwin (Jason), and sister-in-law, Kathie Hooper (the late Thomas "Tom" Hooper), and in-laws Mary Margaret Beland (the late Marcel Beland), Kathleen Nolan and Jack Harrington (Ann Harrington), as well as many nieces

and nephews.

Arrangements: To celebrate John's long and impactful life, the family is planning memorial visitations at the family home in the University District on the evenings of May 12 and May 13 from 6 - 9 pm. A Memorial Mass will be held on May 14 at 2:00 pm at Gesu Church in Detroit. The Mass will be live streamed and followed by a luncheon. We request that all guests, regardless of vaccination status, take a rapid COVID test within 24 hours of attending the wake and/or funeral. Thank you for helping us make this a safe event.

In lieu of flowers please make donations to the Hannan Center (<https://hannan.networkforgood.com/projects/61862-hannan-center-donations>), 4750 Woodward Ave., Detroit, MI, 48201. The Day Break program at the Hannan Center was very impactful to John and his family. During the last 9 months of his life, John participated in this day program designed for persons living with dementia. The staff and other participants loved him and he made many great friends there.

Previous Events

Memorial Mass

MAY 14. 2:00 PM (ET)

Gesu Catholic Church
17180 Oak Drive
Detroit, MI 48221

Tribute Wall



“ *Wm. Sullivan & Son Funeral Directors created a Tribute Video in memory of John Hooper*



Wm. Sullivan & Son Funeral Directors - May 14, 2022 at 01:50 PM

VH

“ *Sincere condolences to Patricia & Marty and family. We have fond memories of meeting up with John & Patricia in our home in Dublin, Ireland. So sorry for your loss of such a gentle man.*
Vincent & Carmel Harrington (Dublin)

Vincent Harrington - May 08, 2022 at 03:52 PM

DT

“ *Condolences to John's family from the Detroit Lower Eastside Family of Parishes. Grateful to God for John's service in the Church.*
Msgr. Dan Trapp

Daniel Trapp - April 12, 2022 at 11:27 AM



“ John was just a wonderful brother-in-law. He and Pat visited us in California regularly and I remember looking forward to seeing them, especially when our kids (Darin and Michelle) were teenagers and acting like teenagers do. John would spend a lot of time talking with them. He was so kind, understanding and easy to talk to. The adults would go to bed and John would stay up talking with the teenagers well into the night. We never learned what they talked about but we certainly noticed the difference in their behavior. Rest In Peace dear John. You will always be in our hearts.

Danielle Hooper

Danielle Hooper - March 27, 2022 at 01:11 PM

NT

Rest in Peace, John... You were a faithful supporter of the Church's mission for multi-race justice and peace. You have been loved dearly by your faithful wife, Pat--and esteemed by your many friends and associates. It is good that you are now home with our God. Nancyann Turner, OP

nancyann turner - March 27, 2022 at 02:51 PM

BK

There's a saying, "Jesus is the heart of the parish." At Gesu, John and Pat have been and are right there with Jesus, at the heart of Gesu Parish. Thank you, John. Thank you, Pat. All our love. Bill O'Brien, Vicky Kovari

Bill O'Brien, Vicky Kovari - March 28, 2022 at 12:05 PM

KR

Sending love and prayers to you and your family, Pat, at the news of John's passing. What a blessing you have both been to us all at Gesu and in our Circle of Support. Your kindness and generous spirits have sustained us all. Much love, Kathleen Rogers

Kathleen Rogers - March 28, 2022 at 12:51 PM



You will be missed. You have been a role model and inspiration to many, including Tess and me. Social and racial justice has lost a champion, as has the church. Truly a life well lived. Rest in peace friend. Much love to Pat and family. Bill and Tess Weld-Wallis

William Weld-Wallis - March 28, 2022 at 06:13 PM



*We lived down the street from John and Pat in Pontiac. They were great neighbors, always joining in with the neighborhood festivities. John baptized our daughter at St. Vincent's parish; our son, Jac, babysat for Marty. Although our lives have taken different paths, John is remembered as being kind, gentle, soft-spoken, a great father and loving husband. Fondly,
Carol and Mike Mansour*

carol Mansour - March 29, 2022 at 12:18 PM



I am so sorry for your loss, Pat. John was such a wonderful man, and his passing is a loss for everyone who knew him and for all of Gesu. However, it is definitely a gain for Heaven!

Many blessings and peace to all who loved him.

Ruth Fichter

Ruth Fichter - March 31, 2022 at 01:32 PM



Pat, Praying for you and Marty and all the family. I first met you both when I was part of the pastoral team at St. Basil's in East Detroit. Remember how teams were an "experiment" back then! And then I worked closely with John to develop the McGhee Fund. I so appreciated his commitment to social justice and his beautiful way of including everyone and every viewpoint in discussions. He was an amazing activist and listener! His legacy lives on through all those touched by his efforts for economic justice. Blessings, Sr. Corinne Florek

Corinne Florek, OP - March 31, 2022 at 02:18 PM

TP

Pat, In the many years I have known you and John it has been a joy and blessing to me and the Gesu Community. His wisdom and words will be greatly missed. Your love and patience has been a beacon to us all as you championed the agony that Dementia brings. My prayers are for your continued strength and courage and may the sustaining love of Jesus Christ give you daily comfort to ease your sorrow with the absence of your life partner. Tamara Perrin.

Tamara Perrin - April 02, 2022 at 12:38 AM