



## Robert Ovies

September 17, 1938 - March 27, 2021

Robert F. Ovies passed into eternal life in his home surrounded by his family on Saturday, March 27th, 2021. Bob's life was marked by his faithfulness to God and his limitless creativity. He was born September 17, 1938 in Newark, New Jersey, the third child to Joe and Alice Ovies. He attended Shrine of the Little Flower Grade School and High School. He graduated from the University of Detroit and spent over 30 years working creatively at Campbell Ewald in the field of advertising. In 1970, he and his wife, Kathy served as missionaries at St. Catherine's parish in Window Rock, Arizona, the Navajo Nation capital. The couple later worked together in ministry at Shrine parish as founders of the Love of God Community where they housed and cared for people who were battered and displaced. They were leaders in the community of worship and faith.

Bob and Kathy spread the living Word of God to thousands of people through ministries they authored and shared within the Catholic church including both the Hungry for God and the Couple Prayer series which is still active in parishes throughout the world. Bob Ovies was ordained deacon in 1986 where he served in parishes in Southeast Michigan, speaking the Word of God through his homilies at mass, weddings, baptisms, and funerals. He was the Director of Detroit's Archdiocesan Offices for Family Life, Young Adult and Youth Ministries where he blessed couples and families through counseling. He authored four published books including *New Lives: A Testimony to God's*

Work in the Personal Lives of His People; Welcome to a Beautiful, Simple Miracle: Couple Prayer; and two fictional novels, The Rising and Barely a Crime.

Bob expressed his love daily and freely to those around him, especially his family. Bob is loved and will be missed by his wife, Kathy, his five children, Theresa Regan, Jennifer O'Connor, Sarah Raudszus, John Ovies, and David Ovies. He is also loved and remembered by his sons-in-law, Patrick, Michael, Matthew, and his daughters-in-law, Laurie and Summer as well as his eleven grandchildren, Joshua, Jacob, Elizabeth, Liam, Joli, Isaac, Jane, Elena, Nathan, Alice, and Evarist. He is also remembered by his sisters Alice Finley and Elinor Ovies, as well as the many who loved him. Bob is joining the company of those who passed before him, his son, Mark, his brother, Joseph, his father, Joseph and mother, Alice.

My Contentment is not in wealth, but in seeing You and knowing all is well between us. And when I awake in heaven I will be fully satisfied, for I will see You face to face."

Psalm 17:15

Memorial visitation Tuesday 4-8 pm at Wm. Sullivan and Son Funeral Home, 705 W. 11 Mile Rd. (4 blks E. of Woodward), Royal Oak. The family will receive friends Wednesday 9:30 am until time of funeral 10 am at National Shrine of the Little Flower Basilica. Memorial contributions to Friends of Kenyan Orphans, 18640 Mack Avenue, Suite 1294, Grosse Pointe 48236 are appreciated. Share your memories at [www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com](http://www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com).

# Previous Events

## Memorial Gathering

MAR 30. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Wm. Sullivan and Son Funeral Directors-Royal Oak  
705 W. Eleven Mile Road  
Royal Oak, MI 48067  
(248) 541-7000  
royal@sullivanfh.com  
<https://www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com/>

## Memorial Mass

MAR 31. 10:00 AM (ET)

National Shrine of the Little Flower Basilica  
2100 W. 12 Mile Road  
Royal Oak, MI 48073

# Tribute Wall

BG

“ September 17 is a holy day for me because it is Bob’s birthday. And so, this day, I pause to give thanks for him, for the lessons he taught by his enthusiasm for God and his deep love for all of us. He has marked my life forever. I continue to pray with him and to him with Jesus that all may be one...Gentle friend, pray for us! With heartfelt gratitude, Brigid

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**Brigid Geroux** - September 17, 2022 at 03:54 PM

JP

“ I remember Robert and Kathy from St. Michael's Boarding School in St. Michael's, AZ. What a couple they were! They modeled marriage before us girls as it was planned in the mind of God. I was so thrilled because they trusted me to babysit their little baby while they had a date night. Robert was so kind to allow me to play his Simon & Garfunkle album softly. I still remember the class when he taught us that the advertizing business was corrupt... "they put pumice in the toothpaste and tell you it's good for you...to make money..." What a great guy! He had a way of bringing out the best in people. He had a way of shining a light into your soul and giving you a glimpse of your own worth in God's eyes.  
He was actually the first person that taught me critical thinking and to not follow the crowd. I only knew Robert and Kathy for 9 months. But they had a deep impact on my life. Thank you both.

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**Julia P.** - January 04, 2022 at 03:28 AM

“ My Friend Bob (Deacon):

*I once apologized for never calling you by your proper, and well earned, title Deacon Bob, I simply called you Bob with much love and affection. You responded with a big Bob smile and told me that was not a problem. Jim and I wanted to share our love for you and our amazing story with all those that attended your funeral, but God knew better since I simply cry when I think of you, as I am right now. I have never been one that felt very important or good about myself until the day I called you on the phone asking for a favor. That was the day you invited me to attend your couple prayer meeting. I distinctly remember telling you that I would love to come but my husband would probably not want to attend. I knew in my heart that only you would be able to show Jim the amazing love that God has for all of us as you did for me as a young adult at Shrine.*

*The first time I saw you speak at the prayer meeting at Shrine is the day I truly feel as if I met Jesus. Your faith, smile, and love for Jesus and everyone who surrounds you was so overwhelming. Everything you said rang true and I hung onto every single word as if I was hanging on to my life preserver. I knew that you would be able to turn my husband around after the trials that we had been going through. He would not attend mass, he threw the crucifix he had on his workbench to the floor and broke it. He was hurting as I was, but somehow, I found God in the midst of all our pain and so desperately wanted Jim to have what I had found in God once again. You see, he did not have the privilege of having known and experienced the love that flows from spending time with such good God loving people as I had been blessed with.*

*Getting Jim to the meeting that night so many years ago was a challenge indeed, but God is good and we made it. Jim saw in you what I have always seen in you almost right off the bat, a miracle had occurred because you invited us to come to this meeting. The rest is history and the friendship that we have had the privilege and great honor to share with you and Kathy has been a source of great*

*joy and many blessings, too many to name here but you know - don't you!! My hope and prayer, Bob, is to emulate your love of Jesus and your open invitation to anyone who will listen to experience our beautiful Jesus and His great love to flow through me, as He flowed through you, so that we all realize what God has waiting for us each and everyday. I love you Bob and will aspire to Love as many people as I can into our Fathers loving arms. Until we meet again - All my love*  
*Mary*

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**Mary Fisher** - April 05, 2021 at 08:44 PM

RP

“*I was fortunate enough to be housed at his house, that bob and kathy were running for unwed mothers back in 73..from there i found a home with larry and barb carter....if it wasnt for these two increadable people, only God knows where i would have ended up.....*

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**Robert Phillips** - April 03, 2021 at 05:31 AM

BG

“ Bob and Kathy were and still are a rock for so many, including me. So many years of good memories of the two of them at St. Columban church, Bob as Deacon with homilies that showed he really was in touch with Jesus, and could help us see the present day reality and love of Jesus. And Kathy was so much a shining example of a real world person living the life that Jesus wants us all to live. She had boundless energy, patience, and love, especially with the children. And they all looked to her and would follow her around like chicks would their mother hen. All while telling the children how much Jesus loved them.

*I remember some advice that Kathy gave me once: "It's better to be loving than right". I know she wasn't just saying that from a book. She lived it.*

*Bob and Kathy led a Life in the Spirit seminar that brought Jesus and God's word so much to life in the moment that it made Christianity attractive and appealing. I had a holy spirit moment at the end of that seminar. I remember a warm rush traveling through my whole body, and a wave of love that I wanted to give away to everyone around me. Bob was also the deacon holding the service on the day I entered the church. Also had a similar Holy Spirit moment as the re-baptism occurred.*

*I also was riveted and encouraged greatly for years due to a book Bob edited titled "New Lives". It captured the true conversion stories of over a dozen people local to Royal Oak and the Shrine church. He also wrote a column in the St. Columban bulletin for a year or so titled "Jesus Lives" that extended the book with additional stories of people's true God experiences, some of them documenting mini miracles. These stories held a lot of weight in my faith life. More than a decade later, I wanted to continue writing stories like that, and started the website WTNESS.ORG that now has about 60 such God stories from people I personally met who told me their stories.*

*I have no doubt whatsoever that the day Bob died, He was*

*immediately greeted by Jesus who gave Bob a great big hug and said, "Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!" And I can also imagine that Jesus said, "Ask me for a favor! I would like to do something to show you my pleasure!" and Bob immediately saying, "Please send my beloved wife Kathy so much love and assistance that she won't even feel my absence."*

*God bless you, Bob and Kathy Ovies.*

*- Bill Griffin*

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**Bill Griffin** - April 01, 2021 at 06:38 PM

TR

“*Kathy...just saw this...Actually, Kelly found it looking for an obit of a neighbor. Last time I ran into my mentor was at Meijers months ago! Perpetual smile and greeting with joy! Mu heart goes out to you and the kids. What a great man he was...heaven is a better place today! Sorry for your troubles! tim renaud*

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**tim reanud** - April 01, 2021 at 03:28 PM

MG

“ Bob was such a kind soul and inspiration to us all. I remember him always having a kind word, a good laugh, and a smile throughout my childhood. He also taught me a lot about ways to be faithful. I am so glad to have had him in my life. He was so generous with his time and support always but especially during difficult times such as making time to be there for my mom and our family in her last days. And I can never thank him and Kathy enough for that as it meant a lot to us.

*Condolences and hugs to the family. Thinking of you all and putting you in my prayers. He will always be with you all in spirit and memories. And I am confident you will continue to find him supporting you throughout your life in innumerable ways. Peace to you all.*

*Love to you all,  
Marisa Gomez and family*

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**Marisa Gomez** - March 31, 2021 at 10:22 AM

Jl

“ Kathy, so sorry to here about Bob. Privileged to be part of the Ovies family during the Shrine and soccer years.

*John and Alice Else II*

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**John G Else II** - March 31, 2021 at 10:05 AM

JW

“ I appreciate Bob and the lives he touched. My first experience with Bob was almost 30 years ago when I was struggling with life and family. I found myself crying in the chapel. Kathy took me to the rectory and called Bob, he came and we talked and prayed.

Whenever I saw him, he always had a word of encouragement.

Its been years since I've seen him, but he will always be a fond memory.

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**Joe Wainz** - March 30, 2021 at 09:45 PM

MM

“ Kathy...I don't know if you remember me but I think of you and Bob fondly even though it's been over 30 years since I've seen the both of you. I always remember the Love of God Community and ministries and bible studies that changed my life. So sorry to hear about Bob...sending love and prayers your way❤️🙏❤️ Mary Miller

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**Mary C Miller** - March 30, 2021 at 09:22 PM

AQ

“ There are no words to capture what an impact Bob had on those of us who prayed with him. He taught us how to pray. To worship. He told us that we were born to worship God for all eternity. That's why is feels so good! ❤️ I think of him now, praising God for all eternity. Bob will be sorely missed. Our deepest condolences too Cathy and all his beloved family. You will not be forgotten by all the St Columban prayer groups that Bob started so many years ago. We still pray as Bob taught us. 🙏🙏🙏

Ann Walsh Quinn

Patrick Quinn

The Walsh Family

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**Ann Walsh Quinn** - March 29, 2021 at 11:58 PM

PR

“ I have many happy memories of Bob, he had the best smile and hugs. I was blessed to be a member of St. Columban with Fr. Jack and Bob. The way Bob talked to you was so peaceful that you could just sense the peace and love of Christ he had and he shared that with everyone. He was loved by many and will be missed. Kathy thank you for sharing him with us. I am truly blessed for having known you both.

God bless you and your family,  
Paula Roger

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**PAULA ROGER** - March 29, 2021 at 09:16 PM



“ Sweet Remembrance Spray was purchased for the family of Robert Ovies.



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March 29, 2021 at 08:21 PM

MG

“ Bob and Fr. Jack are laughing and sharing stories in heaven! St. Columban was a welcoming parish filled with spirit and love thanks to both of them. I was obviously "Hungry for God" because I attended Bob's lecture series three times and still listen to the tapes. Kathy, thank you for sharing your faith (and your husband's ministry) with so many of us. God bless you and your family.

Mary Giordano.

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**Mary Giordano** - March 29, 2021 at 08:11 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Robert Ovies.*



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March 29, 2021 at 07:54 PM



“ *Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Robert Ovies.*



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March 29, 2021 at 07:44 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Robert Ovies.*



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March 29, 2021 at 01:48 PM



“ *Love, Barb, David, Karen and Rich purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Robert Ovies.*



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**Love, Barb, David, Karen and Rich - March 29, 2021 at 01:22 PM**

LC

“ *What a difference he made in my life!!! The most remarkable experiences in my life happened at the prayer meetings Bob led. Week after week sitting in the packed chapel (every seat taken, people sitting in the isles and along the window ledges and out in the corridor) listening to him bring Christ to life in our lives -- every age, gender, color. Tuesday nights led to more time together, sharing life in small groups, in ministries, in celebrations -- every person had a role to play and make a contribution. So many happy, wonderful days, so many good friends made, so much of Jesus loving us into life. Thank you for your "Yes" Bob and Kathy -- the world truly is a better place because of all you gave for us.*

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**Leona Center** - March 29, 2021 at 12:02 PM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Robert Ovies.*



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March 29, 2021 at 11:19 AM

TO

“ *Bob always greeted me with a smile. Treated me with kindness. Gave his love. He will live in peoples hearts forever. Godspeed Bob!*

*Tim O'Connor*

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**Tim O'Connor** - March 29, 2021 at 11:03 AM

TO

“ *Tim O'Connor purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Robert Ovies.*



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**Tim O'Connor** - March 29, 2021 at 10:55 AM

MA

“ *My entire childhood is wrapped up in memories of Mr & Mrs Ovies and the family they allowed me to be a part of... He had the most welcoming demeanor and would greet me with a shoulder squeeze and a smile, making me feel most welcome every time I saw him. Sitting on the double staircase in the first home of theirs I remember, sleeping with the windows open and hearing their prayer meetings in the building next door, hearing his whistle and great belly laugh, a home blessing at Jen's house, officiating her wedding, his masses at Shrine, the last rights he gave my Mom on Christmas Eve. So many memories, he was an amazing man and father to all God's children.*



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**Mariela** - March 29, 2021 at 09:27 AM

BV

“ *Beth Crosby & Roy Verbrugge purchased the Gracious Lavender Basket for the family of Robert Ovies.*



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**Beth Crosby & Roy Verbrugge** - March 29, 2021 at 09:06 AM

MH

“ I moved (back) to Detroit in the late 80s still healing after a short marriage and divorce. I joined Shrine parish and later St Columban in Birmingham, where I encountered Bob. I can still hear his voice delivering homilies that seemed like he created them just for me. In one in particular, he spoke about forgiveness. He defined forgiveness as releasing the other. “I forgive you. You don’t owe me anything any more.” I will never forget those words. I don’t think I ever met Bob, but his influence, teaching and heart supported me during those years. I’ll never forget him.  
Mary Horan

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**mary horan** - March 29, 2021 at 06:39 AM

JW

*Bob and Kathy have always been a witness to me of God's love. Bob will be surely missed but I have no doubt he is in the arms of his Father. Peace and prayers for the family.*

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**Julie Whitmore** - March 29, 2021 at 07:24 AM

EH

*Only recently did I learn of Bob's death after I had moved from the Detroit area three years ago. I so appreciate the calm presence of Bob and Kathy during my ministry at Shrine parish as well as their advice and support. Mary and I frequently recall that the two of you gave us our first wedding gift, within hours our announcement. A few years later we were privileged to take part in a lenten program and exercises on couples prayer that you both led at St. Thomas More parish. We thank you profoundly. All glory to God in Jesus, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit.*

*Edward and Mary Haggerty*

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**Edward Haggerty** - May 26, 2022 at 09:52 AM

TF

“ *THE REGAN FAMILY and THE WILT FAMILY purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Robert Ovies.*



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**THE REGAN FAMILY and THE WILT FAMILY** - March 28, 2021  
at 08:37 PM

DZ

“ *Cathy , so sorry for your loss. I babysat for Bob & Cathy in the 70's. Bob would pick me up in their VWBug. He had the most beautiful whistle! Like a song bird. One of the kindest, loving people I'll ever know. Bob, you'll be very missed. Rest In Peace. Say Hi to my Dad & Annmarie for me 😇!*  
*Love,*  
*Diane (Edwards) Zugaj*

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**diane zugaj** - March 28, 2021 at 07:51 PM



“ *Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Robert Ovies.*



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March 28, 2021 at 07:18 PM

LZ

“ Bob is terribly missed by so many. The ministries both he and Katy tended touched so many lives and will continue into the future. We first met Bob and Kathy at St. Columba serving as our deacon with Father Jack.

These two great men gave so much insight in their homilies. After attending their I entered the Catholic Church with my wife and son Grant. Over the years I would see both Bob and sometimes Kathy out shopping. They would take time to discuss what was going on with me and to catch up.

Bob is truly a spiritual man of God. I can hear God saying to him, “well done my dear friend and faithful servant.

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**Lauren Zoschnick** - March 28, 2021 at 06:53 PM

JC

“ I have know Bob since second grade at Shrine Grade School. Sometimes we shared the walk up 12 mile Rd or road the bus to attend Mass before school started. All the grades attended Mass from 1st thru 8th in the morning before school started across the street.

Then we went onto the high school at 13 Mile Rd. and Woodward Ave. After that we

stayed in touch thru school alumni gatherings or just phone calls, Love of God Community, and e-mail. He was such a good friend. What an emptiness I feel. And I know how close he was to God and Kathy and his beautiful family. You left this life too soon, my friend-----Judy Galla Carlisle

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**Judith Carlisle** - March 28, 2021 at 06:43 PM