



Thomas R. Grady

June 18, 1937 - January 22, 2014

Thomas Richard Grady led a life full of curiosity and devotion. He was born to Marianne Mercier and Frank A. Grady June 18, 1937 on the west side of Detroit, Michigan. He has two surviving sisters, Gloria Washington and Rosemary Leszczynski, and had a brother, Frank, who preceded him in death. Tom attended University of Detroit High School and then went on to Annapolis Naval Academy for one year before deciding that his true calling was as a priest in the Catholic Church. The six years of his priestly ministry were spent at St. Jude's Parish in Detroit. Tom focused on social justice, peace, and inner-city youth ministry. He often proved too forward-thinking for the Catholic Church and in 1969 left the active priesthood into his next set of adventures. That same year he was appointed to the City of Detroit's drug treatment program, a challenging job that he enjoyed. He moved on to teach college courses at Wayne State University for a time. He also taught in the Royal Oak School system for five years in a co-op program, leading a group of high school students to build homes from start to finish. Always a forward thinker, in the 1970s Tom started a new business in solar power and alternative energy sources. At that time he also married his first wife, Suzanne Lareau, and had his children, Colleen and Michael. Many a family vacation included stop-offs at the local wind-generation plants. In the 1980s he developed a specialty in computer room installations, which was fruitful until computers no longer needed their own rooms. He was licensed as an electrical, heating, and general contractor and continued to build in a variety of capacities until his

retirement. In 2009 Tom moved with his beloved wife Julie Weber to Brevard, NC. He was widowed a year later but continued to enjoy his new friends, the mild weather, and Carolina blue skies until his death.

He was most proud and committed to his family: Colleen Grady Porter, Michael Thomas Grady, and a young grandson, Benjamin Thomas Porter. He is well-loved by his many nieces and nephews, as well as many friends.

Memorial Mass Saturday, February 8, at 12:00 Noon at St. James Catholic Church, 241 Pearson, Ferndale, Michigan 48220. Memorials to Focus Hope appreciated.

Tribute Wall

SS

“ I was out walking after work yesterday on Maple Street. I noticed Mr. Grady's lawn was unkept and begin to wonder if he had moved away. This morning, I went on-line and found Mr. Grady's obituary. I'm so sorry for your loss and ours too. Mr. Grady was a customer at our store and I, personally, waited on him many times. The first time I met him was when he came in to the store shortly after his wife's death and asked me to make copies of a little book with his wife's personal notes and writings. We talked for sometime that day and I was touched by his great love for her and his grief. After that he came in several times and then he started calling us and he would park at our front door, we would gather his office supplies and take them to his car. He was always so pleasant and just had a gentle spirit about him. He seemed to enjoy teasing me a little about my very southern accent. We will miss him!!!!

Sherri@Grover's Office Supply - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

PB

“ Tom deeply cared about people, their spiritual and material struggles. He was intelligent on a technical level and on personal level. Thank you Tom for your forward thinking and willingness to accept the misunderstanding and the stress that comes with being ahead of most people on social justice issues because you understood the call of Jesus to love your neighbor as yourself.

Paul Bass - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

LA

“ I am so sorry for your loss. May the God of all comfort be with you during this difficult time. Deepest sympathy. Rev 21:4

LaVerne - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

TB

“ As a grade school student at St Jude in Detroit, I remember Fr. Grady well as a young, vibrant and inspiring priest. I served Mass for him and recall his popularity with the young people of the parish. He married my sister in 1968. I thought of him recently and now know why that thought came to mind. I am happy to hear that he achieved God's will for his life and kept the faith. My The Lord Jesus welcome him into the heavenly home and bless his family.
Sincerely, Tim Bondy PT, Petoskey, Michigan.

Tim Bondy - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

PF

“ To the Grady family our most sincere condolences. Tom was a good friend. He made a difference. He will be missed. The Feighan family

Patrick Feighan - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JW

I remember Tom very well as a friend and a good person. He was my classmate and roommate at the Naval Academy, plebe year 1955-1956. He endured the hazing that we all experienced with good humor and no ill will. It was a bonding experience. It is gratifying to know what a good life he lived.

James Wheeler - May 23, 2025 at 03:32 PM