



## Reverend Donald L. Shiroda

April 30, 1927 - March 16, 2011

Father Don Shiroda, 83, dies and leaves a legacy. Fr. Don Shiroda was born April 30, 1927, son of Mabel and Louis Shiroda. After high school and working for Thornton Construction Co. of Hancock, MI he served in the U.S. Marine Corp. In 1950 he entered the Seminary in Kitchner, Ontario at St. Jerome's, he then moved to St. Francis Seminary in Milwaukee, WI. Two years later he finished theological training at St. Johns in Plymouth, WI in 1959. Fr. Don began his career as a priest serving as an assistant pastor for St. Gregory Church in Newberry, MI. Subsequently he served in St. Thomas, Escanaba, St Agnes, Iron River, St. Albert the Great, Houghton, Marquette's St. Christopher, Calumet's St. Paul the Apostle, Immaculate Conception in Iron Mountain, Sacred Heart, L'Anse. In 1986 he moved to St. Joseph Church in Sault Ste. Marie and remained there for 23 years until his retirement in 1997. He made his home at Freighter View Assisted Living until his death on March 16, 2011. Among the many achievements are the establishments of the Caring House in Iron Mountain in 1981(a safe home for abused women and children) and the Hope House established in 1989 in Sault Ste. Marie (a home for women in recovery of substance use). Thousands of women across the Upper Peninsula have found a new life as a result of Father Don's support and spiritual guidance while residing in one of these homes. Countless others from all walks in life have experienced Father Don's deep, unwavering love and consolation when they needed it. He served throughout the U.P. in a multitude of capacities; Diocesan Director for Vocations, Sacramental Minister

to Catholic Campus Ministry at Lake Superior State University, performed mass at Hiawatha Correctional Facility, Chaplain for numerous community and civic organizations, Parochial administrator, Dean of the Soo Deanery, Co-Pastor and Pastor of over 20 Churches throughout the U.P. He celebrated his 50th year as a Catholic priest on June 7th, 2009. The people of the Soo knew him as the season ticket holder and one of the many cheering fans for the Lake Superior State University "Lakers" Hockey Team. He is survived by numerous friends and family and countless parishioners across the U.P. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in honor of Father Don to St. Mary's Catholic School (360 Maple St. Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783), Hospice of the E.U.P. (508 Ashmun St. Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 or FreighterView Assisted Living (605 W. Portage Ave. Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783). Deep Appreciation goes to the Freighter View Staff and War Memorial Hospital. Visitation will be held 5:00pm until 9:00pm Sunday March 20, 2011 at St. Joseph's Catholic Church with prayers at 7:00pm and also on Monday March 21, 2011 from 9:00am until 12 noon. Mass of Christian Burial will be held 12noon Monday March 21, 2001 at St. Joseph's Catholic Church with The Most Rev. Alexander K. Sample, Bishop of Marquette as Celebrant and The Most Rev. James H. Garland, retired Bishop of Marquette with Priests of the Diocese as concelebrants. Burial will be in Forrest Hill Cemetery, Houghton, Michigan. Clark Bailey Newhouse Funeral Home is assisting with arrangements. Condolences may be left at [www.clarkbaileynewhouse.com](http://www.clarkbaileynewhouse.com).

# Tribute Wall



“ *Reverend Donald L. Shiroda*

October 05, 2023 at 09:54 AM



“ *Reverend Donald L. Shiroda*

October 02, 2023 at 10:14 PM



“ *Reverend Donald L. Shiroda*

September 01, 2022 at 07:49 PM



“ *We all share in the loss of Fr. Don. What a great human being he was. He left a smile on the faces of everyone he met. He was a true example of someone living the golden rule. May he rest in peace as we all mourn his loss.*

**Dick and Mary Tuisku** - April 03, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *Fr. Don married us at St. Al's in Houghton on the MTU campus 40 years ago. We are convinced that his presence at our wedding is why we are happily married. He was such an inspiration to young Tech students in the 1970's and the St. Joe's nursing students...he was the Chaplain at the hospital. We have talked about him often and did get to see him several years ago in the Soo. I'm sure he's busy in heaven, ministering to many. What a wonderful priest and friend!*

**Julann & Rod Ritter** - April 02, 2011 at 12:00 AM

BB

“ Don Shiroda was a friendly, energetic, athletic Senior at Houghton High when I was a freshman. He was always helpful at a time when 4 years age difference is an eternity. His mother and my mother were in school together. Don made a strong impression on everyone he met. He will be greatly missed. I had not seen him in over 50 years, but just knowing he is gone leaves a bit of a hollow feeling. Condolences to all his loved ones and many friends.

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**Bob Brown** - March 25, 2011 at 12:00 AM

BP

“ Our sympathies and thank yous to all who have been a part of Fr. Don's life while at the Saulte. He entered our lives while at Tech. and never left us. It was great to spend time with him in Houghton in June '09. No doubt that Mabel is showing him around in heaven. Pray for us Fr. Don.

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**Bob and Sandy Pomazal** - March 24, 2011 at 12:00 AM

DT

“ Our deepest sympathy to the Shiroda family and all the friends he leaves behind. Father Don was everything a man of God should be. He was a true example of goodness and compassion. He touched so many lives and will be missed deeply.

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**Dick and Mary Tuisku** - March 24, 2011 at 12:00 AM

PC

“ Rejoice with the angels, Fr. Don. I am certain that when our Lord saw you in heaven, He said, "Well done, good and faithful servant!" You grew up in West Houghton, right by the LaBissoniere crew, and I've known you all my life. I only hope, in some small way, that you knew what an amazing effect you had on SO many people. You will live in my heart always and in Glory forever. God Bless.

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**Peggy LaBissoniere Cole** - March 24, 2011 at 12:00 AM

HD

“ *Father Don married my wife and I almost 42 years ago at St Albert the Great. He was also instrumental in starting Dial Help in Houghton in 1970. He will be darly missed. He was the best!*

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**Harvey & Susan Desnick** - March 23, 2011 at 12:00 AM

DS

“ *We have fond family memories of Fr. Shiroda visiting my family in Hancock. My uncle Babe Salani and my Dad Louis Salani always spoke very highly of Father. What a wonderful priest and human being. Heaven has a new angel.*

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**Dotsie Salani Stewart** - March 23, 2011 at 12:00 AM

SR

“ *I enjoyed have Fr. Shiroda as my priest in St. Pauls Church in Calumet,mi when I was growing up. He was a wonderful person and will be surely missed.*

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**Shari Rogers"Rasinowich"** - March 23, 2011 at 12:00 AM

HW

“ *You will always be remembered as a wonderful priest and a compassionate person who was always there for us. May God hold you in his arms.*

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**Helen Watts** - March 20, 2011 at 12:00 AM

AN

“ *Father Shiroda was special to the high schoolers in Newberry at his first assignment. We loved him dearly. A special thank you to him for all he did for us. I also happened to be living in L'Anse when he was assigned there. He touched many lives in a postive way. He is at peace now.*

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**Ann Rahilly Nelson** - March 19, 2011 at 12:00 AM

BC

“ *You were the most Godly man we've ever met. You married us in 1974 at the Black rocks on Presque Isle in Marquette. When the priest in Rudyard refused to, you baptized and gave our daughter Tricia the last rights on her death bed in 1995 in Kincheloe. You will be greatly missed by everyone you helped in your long career.*

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**Bill and Kathi Clancy** - March 19, 2011 at 12:00 AM

SG

“ *You were an amazing man and a dear friend to many people, you are where you want to be now in heaven with the guarding angels. I will never forget the memories I have with you my friend.*

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**Susan A Giles** - March 18, 2011 at 12:00 AM

TP

“ *Father Don was part of our family who gave comfort and laughter to us through out the good times and the hard times. We are selfishly, saddened at the loss of such a valued friend. Rest Peacefully Father Don, you will always be remembered in our family. Love Teresa, Mikey & Daphne Patten*

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**Teresa Patten** - March 18, 2011 at 12:00 AM

DC

“ Thanks for being there when we've needed you, Father Don. You will be missed.

Dolores Cartwright - March 18, 2011 at 12:00 AM

MC

“ Father Don was a wonderful person, he grew up with my mother and I remember him being at our house for special occasions. God bless and rest in peace. Mary Ann Cassady

Mary Ann Cassady - March 18, 2011 at 12:00 AM

MH

“ My deepest sympathy to the family of Father Don. What a great man with great stories. I only wish I could have spent more time with Father Don. He will truly be missed.

Marilee Hanson - March 18, 2011 at 12:00 AM

PK

“ May you rest in everlasting peace in the loving arms of the Blessed Father.

Patricia Becks Kaas - March 17, 2011 at 12:00 AM

SA

“ It was a great honor getting to know you through the years Father Don. Your warm smile will never be forgotten. Every Christmas when we hang the angel that you gave us, we will look up and think of you. And every football season we will hear you cheer louder than anyone for the beloved Packers. Go Pack Go. Thanks for the memories.

Susan, Mike and Jason Andary - March 17, 2011 at 12:00 AM

LL

“ My family has such wonderful memories of Fr. Don and all he did for the local area. Such a wonderful man — he was responsible for bringing my husband into the church before we were married. I also worked closely with him as a volunteer for Caring House. Fr. Don was truly a spiritual leader who led by example. He had a charismatic personality and he touched everyone he met.

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**Linda Lobeck** - March 17, 2011 at 12:00 AM

MP

“ On behalf of my family I want to extend our deepest sympathy for the loss of this wonderful man and friend. I am convinced that the reason we have been married for over 15 years is because of Father Don. The last time I seen him he asked if me and Wendy were still married. I answered "yes, of course". He started to cry and said it makes him a happy old man knowing we are still together. You will be sorely missed.

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**Michael and Wendy Price** - March 17, 2011 at 12:00 AM

GM

“ Dear Father Don, We are sadden to hear about your passing. We will sure miss you at all the hockey games and all the Blessings you gave our kids and our grandkids. May you rest in peace. We love you! Greg & Jo Ann McQuiggin

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**Greg McQuiggin** - March 17, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ The first time I met you was at your ordination. What an affair. You were a part of our family and I remember you many visits to our home over the years and the last time I saw you was at my parents 50th where you said mass and renewed their vows. Thank you for all you have done and rest in peace with your Lord.

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**Joe Shiroda** - March 17, 2011 at 12:00 AM