



Mr. Richard J. Dwyer

March 3, 1935 - August 15, 2021

Former Cortland resident and St. Mary's Permanent Deacon Richard J. "Dick" Dwyer, 86, was welcomed into the arms of the angels on August 15th, 2021, Assumption Sunday. Born March 3, 1935, Deacon Dick was the only son of F.H. "Dick" and Doris Oliver Dwyer, and beloved brother to Nancy Downes and Dee Gleason and the late Joan Tomidy. A graduate of St. Mary's School, he enlisted and served in the United States Air Force during the Korean War before suffering an injury that landed him in the hospital for nearly a year and left him disabled. Throughout his recuperation and the rest of his life, he relied heavily on the love of his life, Coraljean Willis, whom he married in 1957.

After attending Central City Business Institute, Dick began a career at Smith Corona, where he worked as a Purchasing Agent for 33 years. In 1979, Dick received a spiritual calling to participate in a journey of faith that resulted in his being ordained as a Permanent Deacon in the Roman Catholic Church in 1981 as a member of the third Diaconate Class for the Diocese of Syracuse. Deacon Dick, a lifelong communicant of St. Mary's Church in Cortland, specialized in ministering to Senior Citizens in both of Cortland's Senior High Rise Buildings and area nursing homes. After retiring from Smith Corona in 1993 and in addition to his duties as a deacon, Deacon Dick accepted a position as the Business Manager for St. Mary's Parish.

Deacon Dick was an Honorary member of the Knights of Columbus and

achieved the 3rd and Fourth Degrees. He serves as the Grand Knight of Cortland Council #233 four different times and was District Deputy of five Councils for two years before becoming a member of the Knights of Columbus Our Lady of Perpetual Help Council #5269 in Vero Beach, Florida, where he and Coraljean relocated in 2002.

In addition to his devoted bride, Coraljean, Deacon Dick is survived by his son, Joseph Dwyer and fiancée Maria O'Shea of Florida, daughters Wendy Dwyer and her husband, Daniel Hafner of Virginia, Kelley Dwyer of Texas, former daughter-in-law Cindy Dwyer, grandchildren Hilary Dwyer (Luke Thornton) and Christopher Dwyer (Rachel Baldwin), JP and Chrystina Hafner, Alicia and Evan Kletter, Sasha and Tamara Hafner, Claire Hafner, and Andre and Luciana Hafner, along with eight great-grandchildren, and scores of nieces and nephews.

In an effort to ensure the health and safety of all who might wish to attend, services for Deacon Dick, which are being handled by Deacon Dick's beloved nephew, Bryan Riccardi of Riccardi Funeral Home, will be scheduled for a later date. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to St. Mary's Church or St. Mary's School. Those wishing to honor the memory of Deacon Dick are asked to extend an anonymous kindness to someone else, not for recognition but simply because Jesus taught us that we are meant to treat one another with love and kindness,

Tribute Wall

AS

“ I've been researching my family tree, and 2 days ago I came upon a picture in an old (June 29, 1954) newspaper clipping, of my father, Charles Seymour, and I believe Mr. Dwyer, with several others, as they set off for basic training at Sampson Air Force Base. On the same day a few hours later, I saw the announcement of Dick's passing. Such an unusual yet sad coincidence that it compelled me to reach out to your family and let you know that as strange as it may seem, my father (who passed a few years ago) must have been happy to welcome his old friend to heaven, until such time you are all reunited again. Our most sincere condolences to you all, wishing you much peace. Amie Seymour



Amie Seymour - August 21, 2021 at 03:26 PM

HD

Thank you so much for sharing this, Amie, and for your kind words! Our family appreciates it so much.
-Hilary Dwyer ❤️

Hilary Dwyer - October 06, 2021 at 10:03 PM

KJ

“ Dear Dwyer family,
Sincere condolences on your loss of Dick.
During my time at Smith Corona, I always had only positive experiences with him. He always understood issues that were important to me and was positive about helping.
I know that he will Rest In Peace.
Ken Jones

Ken Jones - August 18, 2021 at 05:58 PM

HD

Thank you Ken! Our family appreciates your kind words, and for sharing your memories.
-Hilary Dwyer ❤️

Hilary Dwyer - October 06, 2021 at 10:03 PM



I had the pleasure of working with Dick at Smith Corona back in the 80's. He was one of the kindest people I ever met. His ethics and loyalty were second to none.

Dan Hare - March 27, 2022 at 02:39 PM