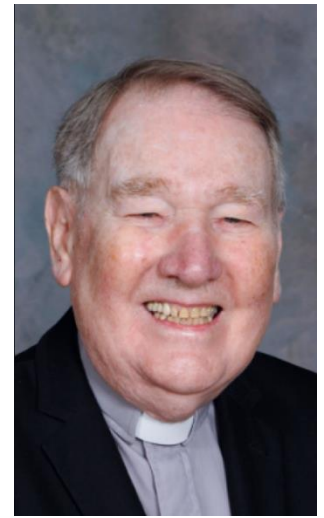


Death of Fr. Paul Joseph Lennon (April 5, 1931- May 8, 2024)

**May 22, 2024**

[Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Toronto](#)



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It was with great sadness that we received the news of the death of Fr. Paul Lennon, on Wednesday, May 8, 2024. Fr. Paul was a priest of the Archdiocese of Toronto, who retired to the Houses of Providence. He spent many years in parish work before completing his studies for his Masters in Social Work from the National Catholic School of Social Service in Washington, DC. He then brought his many gifts to Catholic Charities where he would stay for seventeen years, four of those as our Executive Director. He was then assigned to Serra House in Toronto for men who considering the priesthood, before returning to parish work and eventually retiring in 2007.

When he learned that Catholic Charities would be establishing a Social Work scholarship in his honour, Fr. Paul said, “The name doesn’t matter but I’m delighted to hear that there is such a thing. Our leader Jesus Christ spent a good deal of His life seeking out and helping the poor... right from the start, we had it in our heads that the poor were important.” This epitomized his humble approach to his work and his innate ability to connect with those he strived to support.

Even in retirement, Fr. Paul remained active and engaged within the Catholic Community, including participating in a panel discussion on “Aging & Spirituality” for the Canadian Catholic Bioethics Institute in 2015.

Last month, Michael Fullan, our former Executive Director, visited Fr. Paul a few days after his 93rd birthday. Michael found him to be strong in spirit, although his physical and mental state was diminishing. He knew his death was imminent and said he had been blessed with a long life and the joy he had experienced serving the people of God, as a priest for 66 years.

Fr. Paul wanted to talk about Pope Francis's book, where he spoke about the 'Church as a field hospital', a place to reach out to the most vulnerable and to heal the wounds of the world'. “The poor were always the priority with Paul, “said Michael, “and he saw them as a gift to embrace and not to be rejected. He remained hopeful right until the end of his life. I'll miss our talks.”

Fr. Paul Lennon was a good man, a good friend, and a good, holy priest. He was a consummate friend to Catholic Charities, and he will be missed.

His funeral will be held on Thursday, May 30, at Our Lady of Fatima Parish, Scarborough. Full details for the visitation and funeral are below:

[Reverend Paul Joseph Lennon | Obituary | Sharing Memories \(arbormemorial.ca\)](#)



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