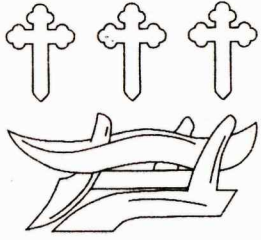


Archdiocese of Cincinnati



**Chancery Office**

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November 23, 2004

Dear Father and Deacon:

**Reverend Clarence J. Rivers** died at his home on Sunday, November 21, 2004. He was born September 9, 1931 in Selma, Alabama. He completed his preparatory studies at St. Gregory and Mt. St. Mary's Seminaries. He received his bachelor degree and master degree in philosophy from the Athenaeum of Ohio. He was ordained a priest by Archbishop Karl J. Alter on May 26, 1956 at St. Monica's Cathedral.

On June 1, 1956, Father Rivers was appointed associate at St. Joseph Parish, Ezzard Charles Drive, and to the faculty of Purcell High School. In June, 1962, he was appointed associate at Assumption Parish, Walnut Hills, while continuing at Purcell High School. In 1963, he was granted permission to study speech and drama at The Catholic University of America. In 1964, he returned to St. Joseph Parish, Ezzard Charles as associate, continuing at Purcell High School. In June, 1965, he was released from his assignments to pursue the formation of "Stimuli," his program of inculturation of African American culture with Catholic worship.

**Reception of the Body:** Friday, November 26, 2004 from 5:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. at St. Joseph Parish, 745 Ezzard Charles Drive (513.381.4526). Celebrant: Father Bill Cross. Evening prayer at 7:30 p.m.

**Funeral Mass:** Saturday, November 27, 2004 at 11:00 a.m. at the Cathedral of St. Peter in Chains, 325 W. 8<sup>th</sup> Street, (513.421.5354). Celebrant: Archbishop Daniel E. Pilarczyk. Homilist: Father Paul Rehling. Visitation from 10:00 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. at St. Peter in Chains Cathedral.

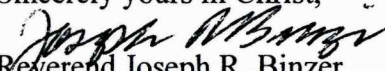
**Burial:** Saturday, November 27, 2004, immediately following the Mass at Gate of Heaven Cemetery, Cincinnati. Celebrant: Father Giles Pater.

There will be a reception after the Funeral Mass at St. Joseph Parish, 725 Ezzard Charles Drive.

Associates of the Marian Pact are asked to offer, as soon as possible, one Mass for the repose of the soul of Father Rivers, and when convenient, to provide for the celebration of two other Masses.

Father Rivers devoted his life and ministry to enabling full, active participation in worship as called for by the Second Vatican Council; moreover he was a pioneer in developing an authentic black Catholic voice and style in liturgical celebration. Informally, he was a pastoral presence and cohesive force in the local black Catholic community. Many knew him as a genuine friend who found elegant and thoughtful ways to show his care and concern. He summed up his life and work in the words of a spiritual, "I am seeking for a city, Halleluia! For a city in that Kingdom, Halleluia! Would that God enlighten us all! For where there is no light, no prophetic vision, surely people will perish!" May the Lord receive his priest and servant into the glory of heaven.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

  
Reverend Joseph R. Binzer,  
Chancellor