



Rev. Kenneth Anatoly Siefert

July 19, 1937 - July 1, 2021

Rev. Fr. Kenneth Anatoly Siefert, 83, of Centralia, passed away Thursday, July 1, 2021 at SSM Health St. Mary Hospital in Centralia, Illinois.

He was born July 19, 1937 in Kankakee, Illinois, the son of William Leo Siefert and Lucille (Rivard) Siefert.

He married his College Sweetheart, Cynthia Eng in San Diego, California, in August of 1976. She passed away in 2009. She was the daughter of Professor and Mrs. William Eng of Champaign, Illinois.

He is survived by his sister: Joanne (Siefert) Riberdy of Kankakee and his brother: Mark Edward Siefert and wife Deborah of Terre Haute, Indiana. He is also survived by his daughter: Kasia Siefert of Belleville, two grandchildren: Angela and Aric Wheeler of McLeansboro, Illinois, many nieces and nephews, and his caregivers: Sarey Gillere, Montell Fields, Brandy Branch, Pam Balsano, Brenda Ibe, and Brooklynn Carpenter.

Father Ken and his wife attended Parkland College, Champaign, IL, Illinois State University in Bloomington-Normal and both did graduate work at the University of California (both in San Diego and Los Angeles). He also graduated from St. Elias School of Orthodox Theology with a Licentiate in Sacred Theology. The Catholic Apostolic Church of Malabar awarded him a Doctorate in 1978. He was an ordained priest of the Eastern Orthodox Church. In 1992 he was elevated to the rank of archpriest. For many years he served as a full time Chaplain and Counselor in hospitals in Massachusetts and Illinois. He retired from St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Belleville, Illinois on

April 2012, after 18 years working as a Chaplain and Substance Abuse Clinician. He moved to Centralia, where he established the Orthodox Christian Center of St. Thomas the Apostle. He was appointed Superior of the Order of St. Thomas the Apostle. While living in Massachusetts he was awarded the prestigious Humanitarian and Social Action Award receiving personal recognition from Governor Dukakis, President Reagan, and Senator John Carey. He served many years in the United States Air Force Auxiliary for 35 plus years and held the rank of Lt. Colonel. He was a friend of Bill W for more than 36 years.

Funeral Services for Father Ken Anatoly Siefert will be held Tuesday, July 20, 2021 at 9:00 A.M. at the Sutherland-Garnier Funeral Home in Centralia, Illinois. Visitation will be held Monday, July 19, 2021 from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM at the funeral home.

A Graveside Service will be held Tuesday, July 20, 2021 at 2:00 PM at Mount Hope Cemetery in Champaign, Illinois, where he will be laid to rest next to his wife. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Orthodox Christian Center of St. Thomas the Apostle and will be accepted at the Sutherland-Garnier Funeral Home at 235 North Sycamore Street Centralia, Illinois 62801, (618)532-3523, who is honored to be of service to the Siefert Family. Online condolences may be made to the family by visiting www.sutherlandfuneralhome.com and the Sutherland-Garnier Funeral Home Facebook Page.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 19. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM.

Sutherland-Garnier Funeral Home

Funeral Service

JUL 20. 9:00 AM.

Sutherland-Garnier Funeral Home

Graveside Service

JUL 20. 2:00 PM (CT)

Mount Hope Cemetery
611 E Pennsylvania Ave
Champaign, IL 61820

Tribute Wall

MS

“ *God bless you Uncle Ken.*



Margarey Santos - October 09, 2021 at 10:32 PM



“ *We mourn as we hear that the good man and dear friend has departed. We were only in sporadic contact for the last 20 years, but I knew him since 1981 when we became good friends. He eventually ended up in my Eparchy and studied at our theological school. -- Times have changed, but we stayed in good contact. I also visited him in Centralia and was planning another trip last summer, but Covid19 didn't let it happen. R.I.P. (requiescat in pace / may he rest in peace).*

*Mar Melchizedek, Metropolitan
www.Epirus-Church.org*

Michael Melchizedek - July 17, 2021 at 05:54 PM



“ *Papa Ken you were the kindest loving giving man I have ever met. You had the heart of Jesus! One of my favorite memories is when you me and D bought matching emoji turd hats and wore them into Bonnie's we laughed and laughed. I always looked forward to our Tuesday meatloaf dinners at Downtown Lounge, where you were known as Father Honey, which was very fitting!! You were there for me when my mom was dying with cancer I am forever grateful! You were an amazing asset to our community a blessing to so many in so many ways! I miss you very much your funny heartfelt phone calls. You were definitely a special flower in my bouquet in life! RIP my dear friend in Christ love and miss you!! Not goodbye until we meet again. Love Montell Noah and D 🌈❤️*

Montell Fields - July 15, 2021 at 04:10 PM

RS

“ *Robin Sermons lit a candle in memory of Rev. Kenneth Anatoly Siefert*



Robin Sermons - July 15, 2021 at 12:52 AM