

A Celebration of the Life of



John Clinton Ralph

August 13, 1928 - March 7, 2014

Mass of the Resurrection

Thursday, March 13, 2014

Eleven o'clock in the morning

Blessed Sacrament/St. Charles Borromeo Church

610 Clinton Avenue

Newark, New Jersey 07108

Rev. Msgr. Anselm Nwaorgu, Pastor

Rev. Msgr. Paul D. Schetelick, V.E., V.F., Main Celebrant

Obituary

A Time to be Born

John Clinton Ralph was born in Rahway, New Jersey on August 13, 1928, the first of three children of the late John and Clara (Alston) Ralph.

A Time to Grow

John grew up in Rahway, NJ; Harlem, NY and Bayonne, NJ. When his Dad passed early in his life, he left high school in the tenth grade in order to support his mother, brother and sister. In his later years, when his oldest child was a college freshman, he was motivated to return to night school and earn his G.E.D.

A Time to Love

John was joined in Holy Matrimony to the late Lila Mae (Fleming) Ralph on January 29, 1950 at Christ the King Church in Jersey City, New Jersey. From that union, eight (8) children were born: Michele Theresa, Michael Clinton, John Kevin, Patrick Kimuri, the late Anthony David, Patricia Anne, Lynn Diane and Brian Dominic. **John** was a quiet man who was dedicated to his family. He did his very best to ensure that his children had all that he could possibly provide.

A Time to Worship

John was a member of Christ the King Church in Jersey City and St. Vincent's in Bayonne. In 1959, the Ralph family moved to Newark and joined the Blessed Sacrament community, where all eight (8) children graduated from the parish's grammar school. All of the children went on to attend Catholic high schools.

A Time to Toil

John had an impeccable work ethic. During all of his working years, it was a rare occurrence for him to just take off from work. He was employed by the Ajax Division of Colgate-Palmolive Company for close to 35 years. He began his career on the factory line where he worked overtime (i.e., 16 hours per day) at every opportunity. He was Shop Steward for his union, promoted to Foreman and was subsequently elevated to Superintendent. Never one for idle time, upon his retirement from Colgate in 1984, **John** immediately secured employment with Equitable Life Insurance Company, where he worked in their Mail Room until his second retirement in 1995.

A Time for Fun and Friends

Upon moving his family to Newark's South Ward in 1959, **John** immediately took advantage of his beloved Woodland Avenue playground. He could be depended on to play basketball every Sunday after Mass. It was there that he earned the moniker "Hatchet Man" for the *delicate* way in which he played defense on the basketball court. He had a sweet jump shot from the top of the key that was admired by many...even his sons and their friends! Also an avid football and basketball fan, John maintained an unwavering loyalty to the New York Jets and the New York Knicks...win or lose...he was right there for them.

Pretty much the self-taught man, **John** had several hobbies to keep himself busy. He was a voracious reader, who read at least three different newspapers on a daily basis. On the rare occasion he was unable to obtain his newspapers, he would read National Geographic, encyclopedias or the dictionary if he didn't feel like reading one of his ever-present books. He also maintained one of the prettiest front lawn gardens on Weequahic Avenue. Each and every season the appropriate flowers were potted and/or planted.

John was the quintessential "Jack of All Trades". He did not believe in calling in the "professionals" for repairs. He fixed everything himself. He was a firm believer that "if you can read...you can do anything"...just follow the instructions. He taught his youngest daughter how to use a sewing machine. He was the parent who took all of the children on the block bike-riding in Weequahic Park. He also loved building model ships with the most intricate details and designs.

A Time of Peace

God peacefully called John home on Friday, March 7, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.

A Time for Remembrance

John was preceded in death by his wife of 50 years, Lila Mae, his son, Anthony David, his parents, John and Clara (Alston) Ralph, his sister, Corinne Kent, his brother, Henry, his ever-present companion of over 15 years, Ajax and his grand-dog, Spike.

A Time to Cherish

John leaves to cherish his memories: his devoted children, Michele Ralph-Rawls, Michael Clinton, John Kevin, Patrick Kimuri, Sister Patricia Anne, SSJ, Sister Lynn Marie, SBS and Brian Dominic; beloved son-in-law, Arthur Dean Rawls; grandchildren, Karen, Chelsea, Patrick, En and Evan; great grandchildren, Imani, Treyvon, Karen, Jayden, Anthony, Darius and Malik; sisters-in-law, Norida Smith Fleming and Lily Moore Fleming, his very best friend of over 60 years, William "Mackie" Rhodes, a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives and friends...as well as his faithful dog, Luke.

Order of Service

Welcome and
Blessing of the Body.....Rev. Msgr. Paul D. Schetelick, V.E., V.F.

Pall Placement..... Michele Ralph-Rawls
Sister Patricia Anne Ralph, SSJ
Sister Lynn Marie Ralph, SBS

Opening Prayer of Consolation/Lord Have Mercy

The Word

First ReadingJob 19:1, 23-27a
Patrick K. Ralph

Responsorial Psalm.....Psalm 122
“Let Us Go Rejoicing To The House Of The Lord...”

Second Reading Romans 5:5-11
Sister Patricia A. Ralph, SSJ

Gospel..... John 14:1-6
Reverend Stephen Thorne

The Eucharist

Offertory Hymn “The Lord Is My Light”
Gift Bearers: Karen Hale
En M. Ralph

Communion Hymn.....“Taste And See”
Meditation Hymn.....“Soon As I Get Home”

Obituary Sister Amedee Maxwell, SBS

Final Commendation.....Reverend Everett Pearson

Recessional Hymn.....“Every Praise”

Interment

Holy Cross Cemetery
North Arlington, New Jersey

Repast

*Our family would be honored if you would join us for the repast at
Blessed Sacrament/St. Charles Borromeo Church Hall.*

Timothy 4:7-8

“...I have done my best in the race. I have run the full distance and I have kept the faith. An now, there is waiting for me, the prize of victory, awarded for a righteous life, the prize which the Lord, the Righteous Judge, will give me on that Day---and not only to me, but to all those who wait with love for Him to appear.”

For John

Mend a quarrel...Seek a forgotten friend...Dismiss suspicion and replace it with trust...Share some treasure...Give a soft answer...Encourage youth...Manifest your loyalty in word and deed...Keep a promise...Find the time...Forego a grudge...LISTEN...Apologize if you were wrong...Forgive an enemy...Try to understand...Flout envy...Examine your demands on others...Think first of someone else...Appreciate...Be kind...Be gentle...Laugh a little...Laugh a little more...Deserve confidence...Decry complacency...Express your gratitude...Go to Church...Welcome a stranger...Gladden the heart of a child...Take pleasure in the beauty and wonder of the earth!

Pall Bearers

Michael Clinton Ralph
Patrick Kimuri Ralph
Arthur Dean Rawls

John Kevin Ralph
Brian Dominic Ralph
En Marsalis Ralph

Acknowledgement

With heartfelt appreciation, the family of **John Clinton Ralph** acknowledges all of you who have comforted us during our time of sorrow. Words could never convey our deep sense of gratitude for your expressions of assurance and condolence, your cards, flowers and rendering of your kind deeds. May God's peace and blessings be with each and every one of you!

Professional Services by:
Whigham Funeral Home

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Carolyn Whigham, Director

