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*FUNERAL MASS*



**FR. ROBERT “BOB” YOEST**

*10 DECEMBER 1935 - 18 FEBRUARY 2026*

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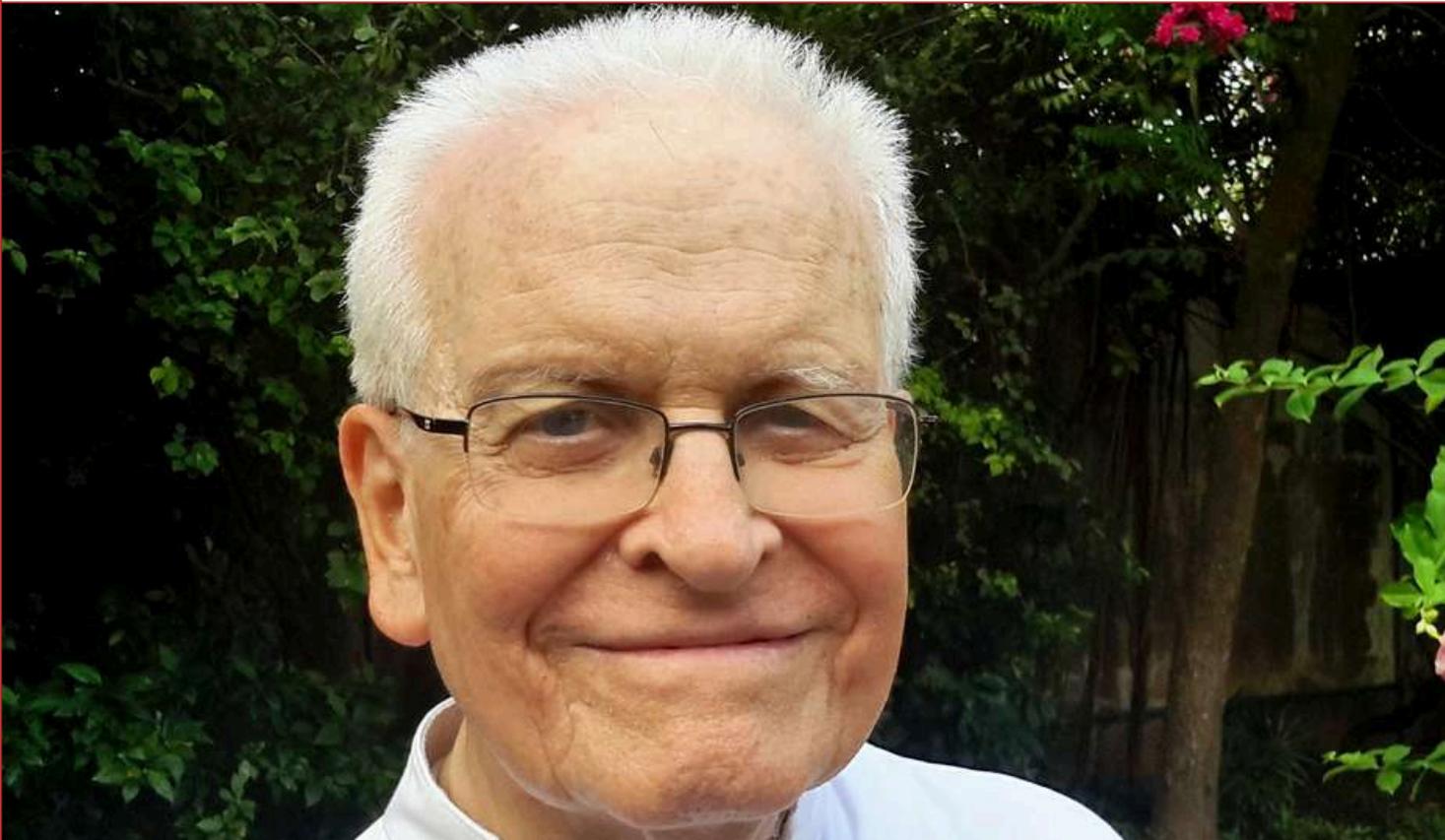
IN LOVING MEMORY OF

# FR. ROBERT “BOB” YOEST

10 DECEMBER 1935 - 18 FEBRUARY 2026

## **FR. ROBERT LEONARD YOEST: THE CHILD PRODIGY WHO LEFT EVERYTHING FOR GOD**

Fr. Robert Leonard Yoest was born on December 10, 1935, to Leonard L. Yoest and Juliana Zelik in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. His very existence was a testament to the power of prayer. After years of difficulty conceiving, the couple had nearly given up hope when Fr. Robert, the pastor of St. Boniface Parish, encouraged them to persevere in prayer and trust in God. When their long-awaited child finally arrived, they gratefully named him after the priest



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who had interceded for them. Four years later, his younger brother Jim was born.

Young Bobby Yoest was nothing short of extraordinary. At age five, he made headlines in the local newspaper for his ability to read from an encyclopaedia and for possessing the IQ of a fourth grader, before he had even started school.

Throughout his education at St. Athanasius School and North Catholic High School, Bobby excelled in both academics and extracurricular activities, earning numerous awards and recognitions. A talented musician, he played the clarinet, saxophone, and piano and was part of the school band. His achievements left such an enduring mark that in 2019, sixty-seven years after graduation, he was inducted into the North Catholic High School Hall of Fame.

Bob graduated *Magna Cum Laude* from Duquesne University in Pittsburgh with a B.S. in Chemistry in 1956. He then pursued doctoral studies at the prestigious Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), earning his Ph.D. in Physical Chemistry while working three summer research stints with Gulf Research and Development Company.

It was at MIT that Bob's life took its decisive turn. In the fall of 1956, he joined the Newman Club and, through friendships formed there, began strengthening his faith practice. He met residents of Trimount House, a university residence established by members of Opus Dei, who were also active in the Newman Club.

Interestingly, this wasn't Bob's first encounter with Opus Dei. As a student at St. Athanasius School in 1945, he had read about the dramatic escape of Blessed Álvaro del Portillo (successor to Saint Josemaría Escrivá, founder of Opus Dei) and his companions from communist-controlled Spain during the Civil War in October 1938.

After initially declining several invitations to attend a day of recollection at Trimount

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House, Bob finally accepted. This decision changed his life. In October 1958, he requested admission to Opus Dei, first as a supernumerary member and, a few months later, as a numerary, embracing apostolic celibacy as a special dedication to God lived out in the midst of ordinary professional life.

Following his doctorate from MIT, Bob accepted an invitation from the then-Msgr. Josemaría Escrivá to train for priestly ordination. He studied at the Pontifical Lateran University in Rome, earning a Master's degree in Sacred Theology in 1967 and a Doctorate in Sacred Theology in 1968. On August 25, 1968, he was ordained a priest for Opus Dei at the Basilica of St. Michael in Madrid, Spain.

Fr. Bob Yoest was distinguished by his immediate readiness to serve wherever Opus Dei's apostolates needed him. After ordination, he spent three months in Vigo, Spain, followed by six and a half years in Austria.

In July 1975, Fr. Bob arrived in Nigeria, where he would dedicate more than fifty years of his life:

- **Ibadan (1975-1977):** His first Nigerian assignment
- **Enugu (1977-1980):** The first Opus Dei priest to reside there; two days after arrival, he was appointed chaplain of the Catholic community at the University of Nigeria Enugu Campus and taught at the College of the Immaculate Conception
- **Lagos (1980-1994):** Fourteen years of pastoral service
- **Iroto Conference Centre, Ijebu-Ode (1994-2014):** Twenty years as resident priest
- **Lagos (2014-2026):** His final assignment, where God called him home

Fr. Bob's pastoral approach was marked by genuine personal interest in everyone he met. He immersed himself in local languages, keeping a Hausa dictionary and Yoruba learning materials in his room. He delighted in learning people's native names and would explain their meanings, sometimes revealing nuances even the owners hadn't noticed.

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His legendary memory allowed him to recall dates, names, and faces even after many years. In his later years, public Masses and gatherings would see him surrounded by people eager to reconnect. Behind this remarkable recall was something deeper: authentic concern for people's welfare, especially their spiritual good. Fr. Bob was also known for his wit. He usually laced his conversations and meditations with humorous anecdotes that helped to make his points stick. A lot of people still have fond memories of stories he told them scores of years ago.

Decades of hearing confessions and giving spiritual direction made him a natural guide for souls seeking to know God better. Even during hospital stays in his final years, he distributed prayer cards of St. Josemaría to hospital workers and patients, and heard confessions whenever needed. He was truly a shepherd whose heart was with the souls around him.

Fr. Bob was diagnosed with cancer over a decade ago, but this didn't deter him from his pastoral duties. He continued giving classes and preaching meditations until it became physically difficult. For his 90th birthday in December 2025, he summoned the strength to preach a thirty-minute meditation before concelebrating Mass. He served as confessor to an Opus Dei centre until his final hospital admission.

When tests revealed his condition had worsened, Fr. Bob faced his final days with characteristic grace. He was accompanied by the prayer and affection of everyone. His brother Jim was aware of all that was going on with him. Throughout his hospital stay, he received Holy Communion regularly. It was only the day before he died that he found it difficult to ingest anything. Although he had received the Sacrament of Anointing at different stages of his illness, he was again anointed on that Tuesday. On Ash Wednesday, just minutes before his death, a priest administered ashes to him. Fr. Bob passed away peacefully while a priest recited the prayers for the commendation of the dying. Fittingly, the last prayer

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offered over him was the Litany of the Saints, a shepherd returning to the Good Shepherd, accompanied by all the saints he had so faithfully served. Fr. Bob had spent the greater part of his life seeking holiness, and his love for God and others was unmistakable. He cherished the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, often noting that from ordination until a hospital stay some years ago, he had never omitted daily Mass. He held unwavering devotion to Our Blessed Mother, frequently showing visitors the beautiful image of the Virgin and Child that hung in his room.

As his brother and family members often observed, with his exceptional intellectual gifts, Bob Yoest could have achieved tremendous success in business or academia. Instead, he put all of them to use in serving God in Opus Dei, first as a layman and later as a priest. According to Jim, "God could not have picked a better employee." Fr. Bob was always wherever his vocation led him, completely available, utterly generous.

Since his passing, condolence messages have poured in from people across all strata of society, each one recounting how Fr. Bob touched their lives with his personal attention and pastoral care.

While we mourn Fr. Bob's passing, we give thanks to God for his life of faithful service. He gave his all. He will be deeply missed by countless people who looked up to him as an example of fidelity and self-giving.

We pray that God grants him eternal rest in the homeland he prepared for throughout his earthly pilgrimage.

*May the soul of Fr. Robert Leonard Yoest and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in perfect peace. Amen.*

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# Funeral Mass

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## ORDER OF MASS

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### AT THE ENTRANCE OF THE CHURCH

**Priest:** In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **R.** Amen.

**Priest:** The Lord be with you

**R.** And with your spirit

Priest: Praise be to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and the God of all consolation! He comforts those who are in trouble, with the same consolation we have received from Him.

**R.** Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

*(The Priest sprinkles the coffin with holy water saying:)*

**Priest:** I bless the body of **Robert Yoest** with holy water that recalls his baptism of which St. Paul writes: "All of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death. By baptism into His death, we were buried together with Him so that just as Christ was raised from the dead, by the glory of the Father, we too might live a new life. For if we have been united with Him by likeness to His death, so shall we be united with Him by likeness to His resurrection."

*A White Cloth is placed on the coffin. Then the Priest says:*

On the day of baptism you put on Christ. In the day of Christ's coming, may you be clothed with glory. Amen.

*The Book of the Gospel is now placed on the coffin. The priest then says:*

The Gospel, the Good News of Salvation, has been your rule and guide during your life. May it now assist you on your journey to the fulfilment of salvation which you so much desired. Amen.

## LET US PRAY

Lord, we humbly ask your mercy. Accept the soul of your servant **Robert**. Forgive the sins he committed through human frailty. Free him from the bonds of death and admit him into everlasting life. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

## PROCESSION INTO THE CHURCH

*The Priest and the Ministers now go in procession to the Altar with the coffin coming behind them.*

## REQUIEM

Intr. 6.

Ant. **R** E-qui-em \* ae-tér- nam do-na e-is

Dómi- ne : et lux perpé-tu-a lú-ce-at

e-is. *Ps.* Te de-cet hymnus De-us in Si-on, et ti-bi

reddé-tur vo-tum in Je-rú-sa-lem : \* exáudi o-ra-ti-ó-nem

me-am, ad te omnis ca-ro vé-ni-et. Ré-qui-em...

6.

**K** Y-ri-e \* e- lé-i-son. *íj.* Chri-ste e- lé-

i-son. *íj.* Ký-ri-e e- lé-i-son. *íj.* Ký-ri-e \*

e- lé-i-son.

## MORNING PRAYER

*(Psalms from the Office for the Dead)*

### Psalm 50 (51)

God, have mercy on me

*“You must be made new in mind and spirit, and put on the new nature of God’s creating” (Eph 4:23,24).*

*Antiphon: The bones you have crushed will rejoice in you, Lord.*

Have mércy on me, Gód, in your kíndness. \*

In your compásson blot óut my offénce.

O wásh me more and móre from my gúilt \*  
and cléanse me fróm my sín.

My offences truly I know them; \*  
my sin is always before me.  
Against you, you alone, have I sinned; \*  
what is evil in your sight I have done.

That you may be justified when you give  
sentence \*  
and be without reproach when you judge,  
O see, in guilt I was born, \*  
a sinner was I conceived.

Indeed you love truth in the heart; \*  
then in the secret of my heart teach me  
wisdom.  
O purify me, then I shall be clean; \*  
O wash me, I shall be whiter than snow.

Make me hear rejoicing and gladness, \*  
that the bones you have crushed may revive.  
From my sins turn away your face \*  
and blot out all my guilt.

A pure heart create for me, O God, \*  
put a steadfast spirit within me.  
Do not cast me away from your presence, \*  
nor deprive me of your holy spirit.

Give me again the joy of your help; \*  
with a spirit of fervour sustain me,  
that I may teach transgressors your ways \*  
and sinners may return to you.

O rescue me, God, my helper, \*  
and my tongue shall ring out your  
goodness.  
O Lord, open my lips \*  
and my mouth shall declare your praise.

For in sacrifice you take no delight, \*  
burnt offering from me you would refuse,  
my sacrifice, a contrite spirit. \*  
A humbled, contrite heart you will not  
spurn.

In your goodness, show favour to Sion: \*  
rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.  
Then you will be pleased with lawful  
sacrifice, \*  
holocausts offered on your altar.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit,  
as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end.  
Amen.

*Antiphon: The bones you have crushed  
will rejoice in you, Lord.*

## Canticle

## Isaiah 38

*The psalm of Hezekiah on recovering from sickness*

*"I was dead and behold, I am alive and I hold the keys of death" (Rev 1:17-18).*

*Antiphon: Rescue my soul, Lord, from the gate of death.*

Rescue my soul, Lord, from the gate of death.  
I said, In the noontide of my days I must depart; †  
I am consigned to the gates of Sheol \*  
for the rest of my years.

I said, I shall not see the Lord \*  
in the land of the living;  
I shall look upon man no more \*  
among the inhabitants of the world.

My dwelling is plucked up and removed from me \*  
like a shepherd's tent;  
like a weaver I have rolled up my life; \*  
he cuts me off from the loom.

From day to night you bring me to an end; \*  
I cry for help until morning;  
like a lion he breaks all my bones; \*  
from day to night you bring me to an end.

Like a swallow or a crane I clamour, \*  
I moan like a dove.

My eyes are weary with looking upward. \*  
O Lord, I am oppressed; be my security.

Lo, it was for my welfare \*  
that I had great bitterness;  
but you have held back my life \*  
from the pit of destruction,  
for you have cast all my sins \*  
behind your back.

For Sheol cannot thank you, \*  
death cannot praise you;  
those who go down to the pit \*  
cannot hope for your faithfulness.

The living, the living, he thanks you, †  
as I do this day; \*  
the father makes known to the children  
your faithfulness.

The Lord will save me, \*  
and we will sing to stringed instruments  
all the days of our life, \*  
at the house of the Lord.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and  
to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the  
beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen.

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*Antiphon: Rescue my soul, Lord, from the gate of death.*

**Psalm 150**

*Praise the Lord*

*“Sing praise in your spirit, sing praise with your soul, that is: give glory to God in both your soul and your body” (Hesychius).*

*Antiphon: Let everything that lives praise the Lord.*

Let everything that lives praise the Lord.

Práise Gód in his hóly pláce, \*

práise him in his míghty héavens.

Práise him for his pówerful déeds, \*

práise his surpássing gréatness.

O práise him with sóund of trúmpet, \*

práise him with lúte and hárp.

Práise him with tímbrel and dáce, \*

práise him with stríngs and pípes.

O práise him with resóunding cýmbals, \*

práise him with cláshing of cýmbals.

Let éverything that líves and that bréathes \*

give práise to the Lórd.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit,  
as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end.

Amen.

*Antiphon: Let everything that lives praise the Lord.*

**COLLECT**

Grant, we pray, O Lord, that the soul of **Robert Yoest**, your servant and Priest, whom you honoured with sacred office while he lived in this world, may exult forever in the glorious home of heaven. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever **R. Amen.**

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## FIRST READING (Job 19:1, 23-27ab)

*A reading from the book of Job.*

Job answered: Oh, that my words were written! Oh, that they were inscribed in a book! Oh, that with an iron pen and with lead they were engraved on a rock for ever! For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at last he will stand upon the earth; and after my skin has been thus destroyed, then in my flesh I shall see God, whom I shall see on my side, and my eyes shall behold, and not another.

**Ψ.** The Word of the Lord

**R.** Thanks be to God

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Psalm 23:1-3, 4, 5, 6)

Response: ***The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.***

1. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.  
Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose.  
Near restful waters he leads me, to revive my soul.  
He guides me along the right path; For the sake of his name. **(R)**
2. Though I should walk in the valley of the shadow of death no evil would I fear,  
for you are with me.  
Your crook and your staff will give me comfort. **(R)**
3. You have prepared a table before me in the sight of my foes.  
My head you have anointed with oil;  
my cup is overflowing. **(R)**
4. Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me all the days of my life.  
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for length of days unending. **(R)**

## GRADUALE

Grad. 2.  
**R** E-qui-em \* aetér- nam do- na e- is  
Dó- mi- ne : et lux perpé-  
tu- a lú- ce- at e- is.  
¶ In memó-ri- a aetér-  
na e- rit ju-  
stus: ab audi-ti- óne ma-  
la \* non timé- bit.

Tract. 8.  
**A** Bsól- ve, \* Dó- mi- ne, á- nimas ómni- um  
fi- dé- li- um de- functó- rum ab omni vín-  
cu- lo de- li- ctó- rum. ¶ Et grá- ti- a tu- a il- lis suc-  
currén- te, me- re- ántur e- váde- re ju- dí- ci- um  
ulti- ó- nis. ¶ Et lu- cis aetér- nae  
be- a- ti- tú- di- ne \* pér- fru- i.

## SEQUENCE

### Dies Irae

**D** I- es i- ræ, di- es illa, Solvet sæclum in favilla:  
Teste David cum Sibýlla. 2. Quántus tremor est futúrus,  
Quando ju- dex est ventúrus, Cuncta stricte discussúrus!

3. Tuba mi- rum spar- gens sonum Per sepúl- cra re- gi- ónum,  
Coget omnes ante thronum. 4. Mors stupé- bit et natú-  
ra, Cum resúrget cre- a- túra, Judi- cán- ti res- ponsúra.

5. Liber scriptus pro-fe-ré-tur, In quo to-tum continé-tur,  
 Unde mundus judi-cé-tur. 6. Judex ergo cum sedébit,  
 Quíquid la-tet appa-rébit: Nil in-últum remané-bit.

7. Quid sum mi-ser tunc dictúrus? Quem patró-num roga-tú-rus?  
 Cum vix justus sit se-cú-rus. 8. Rex treméndaē ma-jestá-tis,  
 Qui salvádos salvas gra-tis, Salva me, fons pi-e-tá-tis.

9. Recordá-re Je-su pi-e, Quod sum causa tu-æ vi-æ:  
 Ne me per-das illa di-e. 10. Quæ-rens me, se-dí-sti lassus:  
 Redemísti crucem passus: Tantus la-bor non sit cassus.

11. Juste judex ul-ti-ónis, Do-num fac remissi-ónis, Ante  
 di-em ra-ti-ónis. 12. Ingemíscó, tamquam re-us: Cul-pa  
 rubet vultus me-us: Suppli-cánti parce De-us.

13. Qui Ma-rí-am absolvísti, Et latró-nem exaudísti,  
 Mi-hi quoque spem dedísti. 14. Preces me-æ non sunt dignæ:  
 Sed tu bo-nus fac bénigne, Ne per-énni cremer igne.

15. Inter oves lo-cum præsta, Et ab hædis me sequéstra,  
 Stá-tu-ens in parte dextra. 16. Confu-tá-tis ma-ledíctis,  
 Flammis ácri-bus addíctis, Voca me cum benedíctis.

17. O-ro supplex et acclí-nis, Cor contri-tum qua-si ci-nis:  
 Ge-re cu-ram me-i fi-nis. 18. Lacrimósa di-es illa, Qua  
 re-súrget ex fa-vílla, 19. Ju-di-cándus ho-mo re-us: Hu-  
 ic ergo par-ce De-us.

20. Pi-e Je-su Dómine, dona e-is réqui-em. A-men.

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## SECOND READING (Romans 8:31b - 35, 37 - 39)

*A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans.*

Brethren:

If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all, will he not also give us all things with him? Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised from the dead, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us? Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?

Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**Ÿ.** The Word of the Lord

**R.** Thanks be to God

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (Matthew 25:34)

**Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!** Come, O blessed of my Father, says the Lord; inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. **Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!**

## GOSPEL (John 6:51 - 58)

*A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.*

At that time:

Jesus said to the crowds,

"I am the living bread which came down from heaven;

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if anyone eats of this bread, he will live for ever;  
And the bread which I shall give for the life of the world is my flesh."

The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying,  
"How can this man give us his flesh to eat?"

So, Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you,  
unless you eat the flesh of the Son of man and drink his blood, you have no life in you;  
he who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the  
last day.

For my flesh is food indeed, and my blood is drink indeed.  
He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood  
abides in me and I in him.

As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father,  
so he who eats me will live because of me.

This is the bread which came down from heaven,  
not such as the fathers ate and died;  
he who eats this bread will live for ever.."

**Ψ.** The Gospel of the Lord.

**R.** Praise be to you Lord Jesus Christ

### **PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL**

Let us pray with faith and confidence to God our Father who lives forever and who can do all things. As He raised His Son Jesus Christ from the dead, so may He give peace and salvation to both the living and the dead.

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1. Let us pray for our departed brother and priest, **Robert Yoest** that he may share the light of Christ's resurrection and come into the new life of happiness and peace. ***We pray O Lord.***  
***R. Lord hear our prayer.***
  2. For those for whom this world is the be-all and end-all, that they may come to believe the good news of salvation, renew their lives and have faith in Christ who is the Way, the Truth and the Life. ***We pray O Lord.***
  3. For those suffering on account of bereavement, that the generosity of their fellow Christians may give them new unction and help them to relieve their anxiety. ***We pray O Lord.***
  4. Let us pray for all who have come here to pray for our departed brother and priest, **Robert Yoest**, that we may live, act and speak in full realization that one day we shall be called upon to answer for our thoughts, words and actions. ***We pray O Lord.***
  5. For the sick and suffering, that Jesus Christ who showed mercy to the infirm and the troubled may show them His bounteous mercy, bestow upon them lasting health of mind and body. ***We pray O Lord.***

In silence, let us add our other petitions...

We ask Mary, the Mother of the Risen Lord to pray for us as we say: **Hail Mary...**

### **LET US PRAY**

O Lord may these humble petitions find favour in your presence for the salvation of **Robert Yoest** your servant, and all who have died in Christ, who is Lord forever and ever. **Amen.**

### **PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

Grant, we pray, almighty God, that through these holy mysteries **Robert Yoest**, your servant and priest, may behold with clarity forever what he faithfully ministered here. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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## COMMUNION ANTIPHON

I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me even though he dies, he will live. Anyone who lives and believes in me will never die.

### Canticle

#### ***The Messiah and the one who was sent before him***

*I am the resurrection and the life: he who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die.*

Bléssed be the Lórd, the Gód of Ísrael! \*

He has vísited his péople and redéemed them.

He has raised úp for ús a mighty sáviour \*  
in the hóuse of Dávid his sérvant,  
as he prómised by the líps of holy mén, \*  
thóse who were his próphets from of óld.

A sáviour who would frée us from our fóes, \*  
from the hánds of áll who háte us.

So his lóve for our fáthers is fulfilled\*  
and his hólý covenant remémbered.

He swóre to Ábraham our fáther to gránt us, \*

that frée from féar, and sáved from the hánds  
of our fóes,

we might sérve him in hóliness and jústice \*  
all the dáys of our lífe in his présence.

### Benedictus

As for yóu, little chíld, \*

you shall be cálléd a próphet of Gód, the  
Most Hígh.

You shall go ahead of the Lórd \*  
to prépare his wáys befóre him,

To make knówn to his péople their  
salvátion \*

through forgíveness of áll their síns,  
the loving-kíndness of the héart of our Gód \*  
who vísits us like the dáwn from on hígh.

He will give líght to those in dárkness, †  
those who dwéll in the shádw of déath, \*  
and gúide us into the wáy of péace.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit,

as it was in the beginning,

is now, and ever shall be,

world without end.

Amen.

*I am the resurrection and the life: he who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die.*

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## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Having received the Sacrament of salvation, we implore your kindness, O God, for **Robert Yoest**, your servant and priest, that, as you made him a steward of your mysteries on earth, so you may bring him to be nourished by their truth and reality as unveiled in heaven. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## THE FINAL COMMENDATION

*The priests move near the coffin with other ministers bearing holy water and incense. The celebrant or choir intones the following:*

## THE RESPONSORY

**R.** Líbera me, Dómine, de morte aeterna in die illa tremenda, \* Quando caeli movendi sunt et terra, \* Dum véneris judicáre saeculum per ignem.

**Ÿ.** Tremens factus sum ego et tímeo, dum discussio vénerit atque ventúra ira. (**R. Quando...**)

**Ÿ.** Dies illa, dies irae, calamitátis et miseríæ, dies magna et amára valde. (**R. Dum véneris...**)

**Ÿ.** Requiem æternam dona eis, Domine, et lux perpetua luceat eis. (**R. Líbera me...**)

Kyrie eleison... Christe eleison... Kyrie eleison

**Ÿ.** Pater noster...

**Ÿ.** Et ne nos indúcas in tentatiónem. **R.** Sed líbera nos a malo.

**Ÿ.** A porta ínferi. **R.** Érue, Dómine, ánimam eius

**Ÿ.** Requíescat in pace. **R.** Amen

**Ÿ.** Dómine, exáudi oratiónem meam. **R.** Et clamor meus ad te véniat.

**Ÿ.** Dóminus vobíscum. **R.** Et cum spírítu tuo.

With faith in Jesus Christ, we reverently, bring the body of our brother **Robert Yoest**, to be buried in its human imperfection. Let us pray with confidence to God who gives life to all things that he will raise up this mortal body to the perfection and the company of the Saints. May God give him merciful judgment and forgive all his sins. May Christ, the Good Shepherd, lead him safely home to be at peace with God our Father. And may he be happy for ever with all the saints in the presence of the eternal king.

*(Then all pray in silence for a while. The coffin is sprinkled with Holy Water and incensed, while the following is said or sung)*

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**℣.** Saints of God, come to his aid. Come to meet him, Angels of the Lord.  
**R.** Receive his soul and present him to God, the Most High.  
**℣.** May Christ who called you take you to himself, may Angels lead you to Abraham's side.  
**R.** Receive his soul and present him to God the Most High.  
**℣.** Give him eternal rest, O Lord, and may your light shine on him forever.  
**R.** Receive his soul and present him to God, the Most High.

### INVOCATIONS

**℣.** Lord, save Your people. **R.** Lord, save Your people.  
**℣.** By Your coming as man. **R.** Lord, save Your people.  
**℣.** By Your birth. **R.** Lord, save Your people.  
**℣.** By Your baptism and fasting. **R.** Lord, save Your people.  
**℣.** By Your suffering on the Cross. **R.** Lord, save Your people.  
**℣.** By Your death and burial. **R.** Lord, save Your people.  
**℣.** By Your rising to new life. **R.** Lord, save Your people.  
**℣.** By Your gift of the Holy Spirit. **R.** Lord, save Your people.  
**℣.** By Your coming again in glory. **R.** Lord, save Your people.

### LET US PRAY

Father, into your hands we commend your servant and priest, **Robert Yoest**. We are confident that with all who have died in Christ, he will be raised to life on the last day, and live with Christ forever. We thank you for all the blessings you gave him in this life to show your fatherly care for all of us and the fellowship which is ours with the Saints in Jesus Christ.

Lord, hear our prayer. Welcome our brother into Paradise, and help us to comfort each other with the assurance of faith, until we all meet in Christ to be with you and with our brother forever. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen**

### IN PARADISUM

In Paradísium dedúcant te ángeli: in tuo advéntu suscípíant te mártýres, et perdúcant te in civitátem sanctam Jerúsalem. Chórus angelórum te suscípiat, et cum Lázaro quondam páupere aetérnam hábeas réquiem.

*(May the Angels lead you into paradise: may the martyrs receive you at your coming, and lead you into the holy city, Jerusalem. May the choir of Angels receive you, and with Lazarus, who once was poor, may you have everlasting rest.)*

### RITE OF COMMITAL

*The coffin is now taken to the place of interment*

## AT THE CEMETERY

### BLESSING OF THE GRAVE

*Ego sum resurrectio et vita; qui credit in me etiam si mortuus fuerit vivet et omnis qui vivit et credit in me non morietur in eternum dicit Dominus.*

**I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me even though he is dead, shall live and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die.**

### LET US PRAY

Lord Jesus Christ, by the three days you lay in the tomb, you made holy the graves of all who believe in you, and even though their bodies lie in the earth, they trust that they, like you, will rise again.

Give your servant and priest, **Robert Yoest**, peaceful rest in this tomb until that day when you, the resurrection and the life, will raise him up in glory. Then may he see the light of your presence, Lord Jesus, in the kingdom where you live forever and ever. **Amen.**

*(The grave as well as the coffin are sprinkled with holy water and incensed)*

### INTERCESSIONS

**Celebrant:** Let us pray for our brother and priest, **Robert Yoest** to our Lord Jesus Christ who said: "I am the resurrection and the life. The man who believes in me will live even if he dies and every living person who believes in me will never die".

✠. Lord, you wept at the death of Lazarus your friend, comfort us in sorrow, we ask this in faith. *R. Lord hear our prayer*

✠. You raised the dead to life, give your servant **Robert Yoest** eternal life, we ask this in faith. *R.*

✠. You promised paradise to the thief who repented, bring your servant **Robert Yoest** to the joys of heaven, we ask this in faith. *R.*

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☩. Our brother **Robert Yoest** was washed clean in baptism and anointed with the oil of salvation. Give him fellowship with all your saints, we ask this in faith. *R.*

☩. He was nourished with your body and blood, grant him a place at the table in your heavenly kingdom, we ask this in faith. *R.*

☩. Comfort us in our sorrow at the death of our brother **Robert Yoest**. Let our faith be our consolation, and eternal life our hope, we ask this in faith. *R.*

***All say the Lord's prayer together: Our Father***

### **LET US PRAY**

Show your mercy Lord, to your departed servant **Robert Yoest**, he strived to do your will, let him not be punished for wrong doing. And as he was united in true faith with all your faithful people, let him now; by your loving goodness be united with your angels and saints. Through Christ our Lord. *R. Amen.*

*(The coffin, is now lowered into the grave)*

**Lord, have mercy**    Lord, have mercy

**Christ, have mercy**    Christ, have mercy

**Lord, have mercy**    Lord, have mercy

Since Almighty God has called our brother **Robert Yoest** from this life to himself, we commit his body to the earth from which it was made. Christ was the first to rise from the dead, and we know that He will raise up our mortal bodies, to be like His in glory. We commend our brother to the Lord. May the Lord receive him into His place and raise up his body on the last day.

*The prayer is followed by the rite of dust to dust.*

*The celebrant now says a prayer for all present at the funeral:*

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## PRAYER FOR MOURNERS

Father, God of all consolation, in your unending love and mercy for us you turn the darkness of death to the dawn of new life, show compassion to your people in their sorrow. Your Son our Lord Jesus Christ by dying for us conquered death and rising again restored life; we then go forward eagerly to meet Him and after our life on earth be reunited with our brothers and sisters where every tear will be wiped away through Christ our Lord. **Amen**

## PRAYER FOR THE DECEASED

May Mary the most Virgin Mother of God, kindest comforter of those who mourn, commend to her son the soul of our departed brother, **Robert Yoest** who has departed this life; that through her maternal intercession, he may quickly reach his longed-for home in the heavenly fatherland and live forever and ever. Amen.

May the soul of **Robert Yoest** and the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. **Amen.**

**Ψ.** Eternal rest grant him O Lord.

**R.** And let perpetual light shine upon him.

**Ψ.** May he rest in peace.

**R.** Amen.

## BLESSING FOR THE JOURNEY

Through the intercession of the blessed Virgin Mary may you have a safe trip.

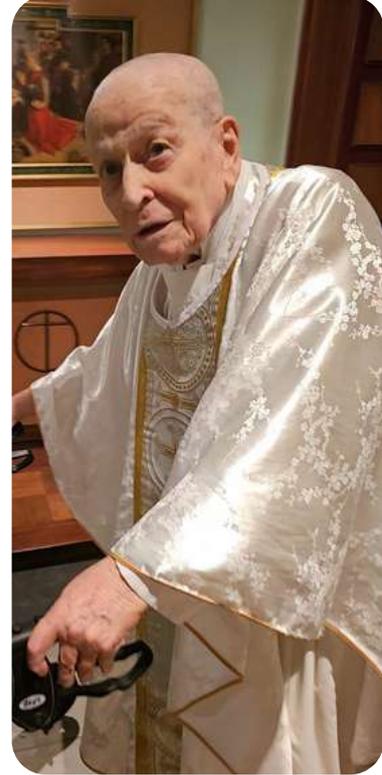
May God be with you on your way and may He send His guardian angels to protect you; Father, Son and the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

## SALVE REGINA

v

**S** Alve Re-gí-na, \* ma-ter mi-se-ri-córdi-æ, Vi-ta, dul-  
cé-do, et spes nostra, salve. Ad te clamámus, éxsu-  
les, fí-li- i Hevæ. Ad te suspi-rámus, geméntes et flen-  
tes in hac lacrimá-rum valle. E-ia ergo, Advo-cá-ta  
nostra, illos tu-os mi-se-ri-córdes ó-cu-los ad nos con-  
vér-te. Et Je-sum, be-ne-díctum fructum ventris tu- i,  
no-bis post hoc exsí-li- um osténde. O cle- mens:  
O pi- a: O dulcis Virgo Ma-rí- a.

*The priest gives the final blessing.*





## Condolence Letter of Msgr. Fernando Ocáriz, Prelate of Opus Dei, to Fr. Anthony Odoh, Regional Vicar of Opus Dei in Nigeria

Roma, 19 de febrero 2026

Queridísimo Anthony: ¡que Jesús me guarde a mis hijos de Nigeria!

Nada más saber del fallecimiento de Bob, me uní a vuestros sufragos, que he podido renovar hoy en la Santa Misa.

Conocíamos la gravedad de su situación y, de hecho, me disponía a escribirle unas líneas justo antes de que me llegara la noticia. El Señor ha querido llamarle a su presencia precisamente el Miércoles de Ceniza, poco después de recibirlas; nos consuela pensar que estará ya gozando en el Cielo, que Dios tiene prometido a quienes le sirven con fidelidad.

Bob ha vivido con entrega y generosidad su vocación y su ministerio sacerdotal, durante estos años en Nigeria y siempre. Con su labor callada y constante, ha sabido reflejar el rostro de Jesucristo ante muchas almas. Me ha conmovido saber que Bob ha estado rezando por mis intenciones hasta el último momento; ahora nos seguirá ayudando a hacer la Obra en la región y en todas partes.

Os agradezco mucho todos los cuidados que le habéis facilitado y el que le hayáis acompañado siempre, y me acuerdo en particular de los de su centro. Haced llegar también mi pésame a su hermano Jim y al resto de familiares.

Ayer empezamos la Cuaresma, tiempo de conversión: aprovechemos también estas circunstancias para renovar nuestros deseos de santidad y de apostolado.

Me apoyo mucho en cada uno, os mando un abrazo y mi bendición más cariñosa

*vuestro Pasha Almeida*

**Condolence Letter of Msgr. Fernando Ocariz, Prelate of Opus Dei, to  
Fr. Anthony Odoh, Regional Vicar of Opus Dei in Nigeria**  
*(English Translation)*

Rome, February 19, 2026

Dearest Anthony: may Jesus watch over my children in Nigeria for me!

Upon learning of Bob's passing, I united myself to your suffrages, which I was able to renew today at Holy Mass.

We knew the seriousness of his situation and, in fact, I was about to write him a few lines just before the news reached me. The Lord chose to call him into His presence on Ash Wednesday, shortly after receiving the ashes; it is a consolation to think that he will already be rejoicing in Heaven, which God has promised to those who serve Him faithfully.

Bob lived out his vocation and his priestly ministry with dedication and generosity, throughout these years in Nigeria and always. Through his quiet and constant work, he knew how to reflect the face of Jesus Christ to many souls. I was deeply moved to learn that Bob had been praying for my intentions until his very last moment; he will now continue to help us build the Work in the region and everywhere.

I am very grateful to all of you for the care you provided him and for always being by his side, and I think especially of those of his centre. Please also convey my condolences to his brother Jim and the rest of the family.

Yesterday we began Lent, a time of conversion: let us also make use of these circumstances to renew our desires for holiness and apostolate.

I lean greatly on each one of you, I send you an embrace and my most affectionate blessing.

Your Father,  
Fernando

# Condolence Letter of Archbishop Michael Francis Crotty, Apostolic Nuncio to Nigeria, to Fr. Anthony Odoh, Regional Vicar of Opus Dei in Nigeria



APOSTOLIC NUNCIATURE  
IN NIGERIA

Abuja, 19 February 2026

N° 1882/26

Dear Rev. Fr Odoh,

I am deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Fr. Robert Leonard Yoest whom I had the pleasure to meet him during my visit to your house in January 2025. I extend my heartfelt condolence to the entire community of the Opus Dei. His death is a great loss to the community, his biological family, the Church and to all who were touched by his generous ministry.

Having met him personally, I was deeply impressed by the witness of a life well lived and faithfully given to God and humanity. We thank God for the gift of his life and priesthood, for his generosity, humility and devoted service to different communities across the country, including Ibadan, Enugu, Ijebu-Ode and Lagos, where he faithfully lived the Gospel with compassion and dedication. His faith-filled witness and selfless service will continue to inspire the Church of Nigeria and beyond.

We entrust him to the mercy of the Lord confident in the promise of the Gospel of Matthew: "well done, good and faithful servant ... enter into the joy of your Master" (Mt: 25:23) May the Lord, whom she served so faithfully grant him eternal rest and may His comforting presence strengthen and console you all.

With prayerful sympathy and blessings

Yours sincerely in Christ,

✠Michael F. Crotty

Apostolic Nuncio to Nigeria

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Rev. Dr. Anthony ODOH  
Regional Vicar  
Personal Prelature of Opus Dei in Nigeria  
LAGOS

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