



Rev. Ruben Rodriguez-Yejo

April 1, 1934 - October 17, 2023

The Rev. Ruben Rodriguez-Yejo, age 89, of Wilmington, DE, went home to be with the Lord Tuesday, October 17, 2023. Ruben was born on April 1, 1934, in Guayama, Puerto Rico, to father, Luis Rodriguez and mother, Ana, Luisa Yejo Sierra. He was raised in San Juan (La Perla) and on La Calle Caridad in Ponce.

Ruben attended Ripon College from 1952 to 1955, graduated with a degree in education from the University of Puerto Rico and a Masters in Theology from The Episcopal Theological Seminary in Puerto Rico.

Ruben met his wife, Mary Anne, in Kalamazoo, Michigan and shared 64 years of marriage together until Mary Anne's passing in 2020. Mary Anne was Ruben's true love, a pure love that superseded cultural barriers. Ruben served in the United States Air Force from 1955-1959 and was stationed at multiple US states throughout his tenure. Ruben would often joke that joining the Air Force was done purely out of love, as it allowed him to come to the United States and start his life with Mary Anne.

Ruben and Mary Anne had 3 sons together – Kevin, Ruben, and David – whom they loved dearly and were very proud of. They spent many years on a remote farm in Puerto Rico as Ruben worked to rebuild the ministry in the Episcopal Church of the Reconciliacion. Rebuilding the congregation of the

church of the Reconciliacion with his family's help was one of Ruben's crowning career achievements.

Father Ruben was a devout Servant of the Church and dedicated his life to the priesthood. Ordained to the Priesthood in 1967, Ruben's efforts primarily focused on creating and building Hispanic ministries in communities that lacked them. He worked with many churches in the Diocese of Bethlehem, Pennsylvania as well as the Diocese of Delaware to achieve this goal. Ruben was deftly skilled at interacting with people and building community. A capable communicator, Ruben embraced the old-school, grassroots mentality of ministry. He loved talking with and praying with members of the community. He had a warm and welcoming demeanor that he would use to help those in need. Ruben could often be found at the bedside of those sick or dying, soothing their distress and providing words of prayer. Ruben combined his many interpersonal skills to serve as a Drug and Alcohol Counselor for many years, mainly at Brandywine Counseling, Inc. as their Hispanic Program Project Director.

In his later years, Ruben could often be found preparing excellent grilled ribs for his family, sitting on the deck with Mary Anne as the seasons changed, hanging out with their dachshunds, watching Spanish court shows, or playing his favorite card game - "Solitaire" – pronounced only as he could.

Ruben (Dad, Pop, Viejo, Gramps) was beloved by his family and will be deeply missed.

Ruben is survived by his sons: Kevin Rodriguez (Jann), Ruben J. Rodriguez (Sophia), and David Rodriguez (Angela); grandchildren: Michael (Angelique), Matthew, Hayley, Autumn, Javy, Tony, Jennifer, Marielle, Aden, and Abiel; great-grandchild, Demetri; siblings: Margarita Narvaez (Alfredo), Jenny Rodriguez), and Ana Iris Villamil; and many nieces and nephews. Besides his parents, he was predeceased by his wife Mary Anne, and his brother Jimmie.

Services and burial will be private. To send an online condolence, visit www.stranofeeley.com

Cemetery Details

Private

Tribute Wall

CF

“ Dearest family of Father Ruben,
Your parents' love for each other and your family was an example to all who knew them.
Your dad served at St. James' MillCreek on many different occasions, as well as being a member with your mom and you all for a time. His stories and homilies were a blessing. His gentle soul and love of God showed through in all he said and did.
I feel blessed to have known him and served with him. We rejoice that he is reunited with the Lord and his blessed Mary Anne. Peace,
Cindy Fauerbach

Cindy Fauerbach - November 08, 2023 at 01:14 PM



“ On behalf of my sisters and myself, we wish to send our deepest condolences to Father Ruben's Family. He was not only our priest but a true friend to our family especially our parents. We will cherish his memory for ever and know the lord prepared him that room in his house in Heaven!
Robert J Forman III

Robert J Forman III - October 26, 2023 at 09:06 PM

FR

“ Father Ruben was always there for me; Thoughts and Prayers are with his family.

Frankie Rivera

Frankie Rivera - October 25, 2023 at 06:40 PM

JS

“ *These days have been full of sorrow and tears, but full of beautiful memories of our brother Rubén, his love, and care. There are no words to fully express the pain of the Rodríguez- Yejo family for his loss. His strong faith and golden heart was an inspiration for our family and for all the hearts he touched. He will be missed very much and always remembered in our hearts, thoughts, and prayers. It comforts us that one day we'll meet again. We are very thankful for all the time, care, and love of our nephews and their families, who took care of him during all this time.*

Jenny Rodríguez Yejo and sisters - October 22, 2023 at 03:07 PM

MF

“ *Martha Figueroa lit a candle in memory of Ruben Rodriguez-Yejo*



Martha Figueroa - October 20, 2023 at 09:15 PM



“ *A gentle and caring priest.*

Barbara Bradley - October 19, 2023 at 08:44 PM

JR

“ *Judie Rick Robinson lit a candle in memory of Ruben Rodriguez-Yejo*



Judie & Rick Robinson - October 19, 2023 at 04:36 PM