



## Rev. Monsignor John F. Morales J.C.D.

March 8, 1934 - January 14, 2020

THE REVEREND MONSIGNOR JOHN F. MORALES, J.C.D., priest of the Diocese of Gary in Indiana, in retirement in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles in California, expired on Tuesday, 14 January 2020.

Born in Chicago, Illinois to Roy Edward Morales and Mary Agnes (Nee: Collins) Morales on 8 March 1934, the priest received elementary education at Holy Rosary School and secondary education at Saint Willibrord High School, on the South Side of Chicago. Both schools are now closed.

Monsignor earned his Bachelor of Arts degree at Saint Norbert College in De Pere, Wisconsin. He completed his studies for the Priesthood at Mount Saint Mary of the West Seminary in Cincinnati (Norwood) Ohio. He was ordained a Priest of the Diocese of Gary in the Cathedral of the Holy Angels, Gary, by the late Andrew G. Grutka, First Bishop of Gary, on 28 May 1960.

Three months after priestly ordination, Bishop Grutka assigned Monsignor Morales to graduate studies at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D. C. and later at the Lateran University in Rome, Italy. While doing doctoral studies Monsignor Morales resided at the Casa Santa Maria, of the North American College in Rome. During this time, the Monsignor worked each morning at the sessions of the Second Vatican Council in Saint Peter Archbasilica in the Vatican. He thus was present when each of the fifteen

documents of Vatican Council II were proclaimed.

Monsignor Morales earned the degree of Doctor of Canon Law, magna cum laude, on 13 July 1966, from the Lateran University in Rome, and returned immediately to ministry in the Diocese of Gary.

Over the decades until his retirement, Monsignor served his diocese as Assistant Pastor at Saint Mark Parish, Gary; Saint Mary of the Immaculate Conception Parish in Michigan City, Indiana; and the Cathedral of the Holy Angels. He was Parish Administrator at Saint Luke Parish, Gary. Then he was Pastor of Saint Mark, Gary and at Nativity of Our Savior, Portage.

Monsignor served the Diocese of Gary as Vice-Judicial Vicar and Associate Editor of Our Sunday Visitor (Gary edition), Diocesan Director of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith and of the Pontifical Association of the Holy Childhood. He was subsequently appointed Judicial Vicar of the Gary Tribunal, Chancellor of the Diocese, Director of Cemeteries, Diocesan Consultor, episcopal appointee to the Presbyteral Council and the first Moderator of the Curia.

At the request of Bishop Andrew G. Grutka, Pope Saint John Paul II, named him a Prelate of Honor, with the title of Monsignor, on 27 April 1984.

In his retirement, the Monsignor lived in Southern California, where he said he went "to escape the cold." He ministered in three parishes of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles until his death.

Funeral service Wednesday, January 22, 2020 beginning with morning prayer at 10 a.m. followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at 10:30 a.m. at St. Bridget Church, corner of Front and Center St., Hobart, IN. Interment at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Alsip, IL. Visitation will begin with the Rite of Reception on Tuesday, January 21, 2020 at 2:00 P.M. at St. Bridget Church, ending with the Celebration of Evening Prayer at 7 p.m. Visitation will also be held on

Wednesday from 9 a.m. until 10 a.m. Burns Funeral Home, Crown Point  
entrusted with arrangements. [www.burnsfuneral.com](http://www.burnsfuneral.com)

# Cemetery Details

## Holy Sepulchre Cemetery

6011 W. 111th St.  
Alsip , IL 60803

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN **21**. 2:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

St. Bridget Catholic Church  
107 Main Street  
Hobart, IN 46342

## Visitation

JAN **22**. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (CT)

St. Bridget Catholic Church  
107 Main Street  
Hobart, IN 46342

## Mass of Christian Burial

JAN **22**. 10:30 AM (CT)

St. Bridget Catholic Church  
107 Main Street  
Hobart, IN 46342



# Tribute Wall

“*Msgr. Morales served as pastor of St. Mark Church during my grade school days in the 70's and I wish to share this prayerful poem/song in his memory, with deepest sympathy to his family and fellow priests:*

*The Beautiful Hands of a Priest  
~Author Unknown*

*We need them in life's early morning,  
we need them again at its close;  
We feel their warm clasp of true friendship,  
we seek them when tasting life's woes.*

*When we come to this world we are sinful,  
the greatest as well as the least.  
And the hand that will make us like angels  
are the beautiful hands of a priest.*

*At the Altar each day we behold them,  
and the hands of a king on his throne  
are not equal to them in their greatness;  
their dignity stands all alone.  
For there, in the stillness of morning  
ere the sun has emerged from the east,  
there God rests between the pure fingers  
of the beautiful hands of a priest.*

*And when we are tempted and wander  
on the pathways of shame and of sin,  
tis the hand of a priest will absolve us--  
not once, but again and again.*

*And when we are taking life's partner,  
other hands may prepare us a feast,  
But the hand that will bless and unite us  
Are the beautiful hands of a priest.*

*God bless them and keep them all holy  
for the Host which their fingers caress.  
What can a poor sinner do better  
But to praise Thee who chose them to bless?*

*When the hour of death comes upon us  
may our courage and strength be increased  
To see, raised above us in blessing,  
the beautiful hands of a priest!*

*Rest in peace dear pastor.*

*Marian (Marando) Paskash  
Class of 1974  
St. Mark Catholic Church*

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**Marian** - January 22, 2020 at 01:19 PM

LJ

“ *Monsignor Morales was my all time favorite priest.*

*He was a wonderful man and it was my honor to serve as an altar boy for many of his masses at St. Mary's Parish in Michigan City, Indiana, and to have enjoyed a life long correspondence with him.*

*He was not only a 'righteous man' but a brilliant scholar as his studies in Rome reflect.*

*God Be With You My Dear Friend,*

*Larry Johnson  
Class of 1962  
St. Mary's/Marquette*

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**Larry Johnson** - January 21, 2020 at 09:34 PM

RH

“ *My love and prayers to the very dear family of a very special priest. To have known him, and served beside him as one of his parochial vicars at St. Mark in Gary, was a great blessing for me, one that still brings joy to my heart. Well done, good and faithful servant. Enter into the joy of your Lord. Wish I could be there to honor you in person. You will be remembered in my Mass here in El Salvador tomorrow.*

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**Rev. Dennis M. Hand** - January 21, 2020 at 03:49 PM