

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 44

Approved January 23, 2023

WHEREAS, On Tuesday, January 3, 2023, Father Raymond Tetrault passed away at age 87, two days shy of his 88th birthday; and

WHEREAS, Senior priest of the Diocese of Providence and tireless advocate of the Latino community, Father Raymond performed the first Spanish mass in the State of Rhode Island; and

WHEREAS, Father Raymond's Spanish Ministry started with his saying Mass and offering prayers in parishioners' homes after he met an immigrant from the Dominican Republic in a Providence market who asked him if he could celebrate Mass at his home; and

WHEREAS, Proud son of Providence, Father Raymond's early education began at the Holy Name School in Providence, followed by LaSalle Academy, Our Lady of Providence Seminary, and the University of Louvain in Belgium, where he was ordained in 1960; and

WHEREAS, Father Raymond's ministry as an ordained priest was wide-reaching. He was a teacher of English and algebra at the high school seminary. He became superior and Novice Master of the "Brothers of Our Lady of Providence," a newly formed society in the diocese committed to working with the poor and the increasing number of new immigrants in the city; and

WHEREAS, Father Raymond's ministry with Latino immigrants led him to join them in their struggle for justice in American society. He helped to develop new leaders who came forward. Latinos discovered that their lives mattered and that it was possible for them to achieve the American Dream, seek justice, and help thy neighbor while living productive lives; and

WHEREAS, His embrace of the principles of non-violence, of living a life of peace and embracing justice became the foundation of his life; and

WHEREAS, He cherished the environment and found simple pleasure in working in his garden, feeding the birds outside his window, and nurturing the lemon tree that grew there. As a painter, he shared his vision of nature and of the suffering people of the world; and

WHEREAS, Father Raymond was one of five children. He is survived by his brother Joseph and his wife, Maria of Glastonbury, CT; and

WHEREAS, Father Raymond was a role model in the Latino community and a lifelong champion of social justice and immigration rights. He deserves all the praise the City of Providence has to offer.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Providence City Council hereby honors the life, memory, and legacy of Father Raymond Tetrault.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Providence City Council hereby extends its deepest condolences to Father Raymond's entire ministry as well as his extended family and friends throughout Providence and beyond.

IN CITY COUNCIL
JAN 19 2023
READ AND PASSED

Rachel Miller
RACHEL M. MILLER, PRESIDENT
Sina J. Mastrosarno
CLERK

I HEREBY APPROVE.

Brett P. Smiley

Mayor

Date: 1/23/2023