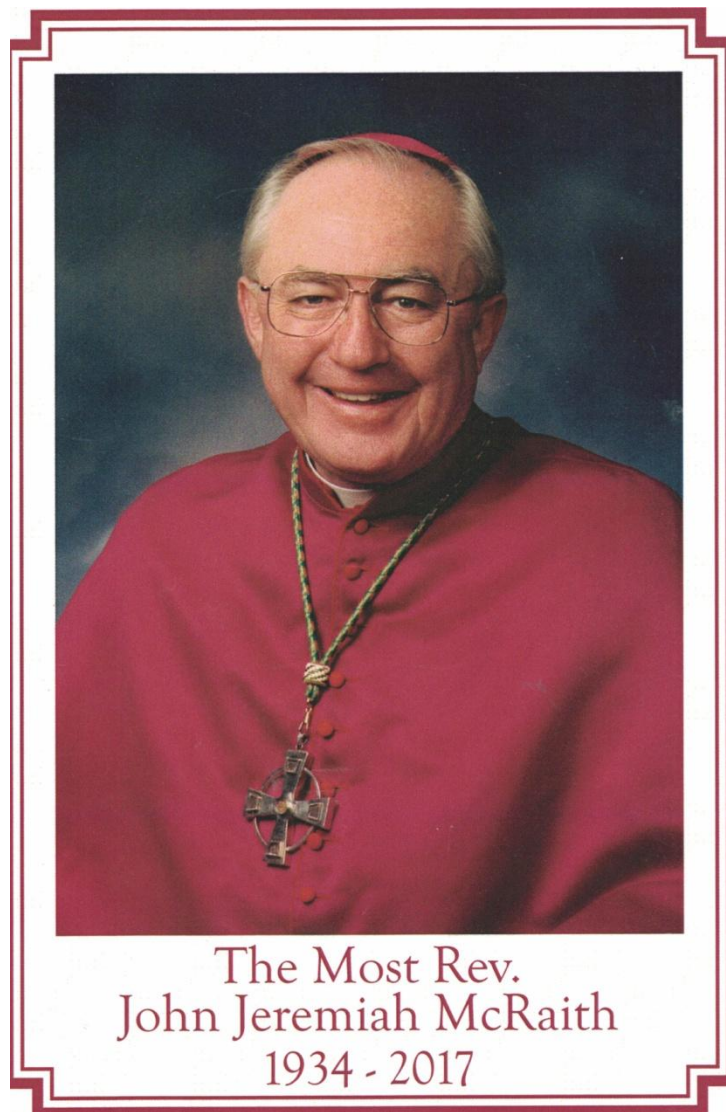


**Rev. John Jeremiah McRaith  
(1934-2017)**



**John Jeremiah MCRAITH** Born: 12/6/1934 - Died: 3/19/2017

**Birth:** Hutchinson, MN  
**Death:** Owensboro, KY  
Daviness County  
Age 82

**Source:** MI: 3/21/2017  
**Cemetery:** Mount St. Joseph  
Convent  
Cemetery  
Maple Mount, KY

## OBITUARIES

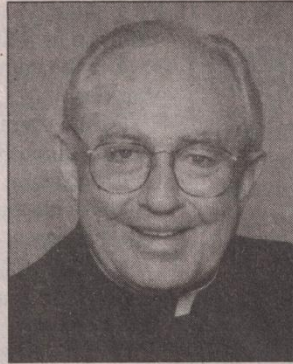
### The Most Rev. John Jeremiah McRaith

The Most Rev. John Jeremiah McRaith, bishop of the Diocese of Owensboro from 1982 to 2009, died the morning of Sunday, March 19, 2017, at the age of 82.

John was born in Hutchinson, Minnesota, on Dec. 6, 1934, to Arthur Luke McRaith and Marie Hanley McRaith. He grew up with three siblings, James, Jane and Margaret Mary. He graduated from St. Bernard Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa, and was ordained a priest of the Diocese of New Ulm, Minnesota, on Feb. 21, 1960. In 1982, he was ordained as the third bishop of the Diocese of Owensboro. In addition to shepherding the Catholic Church of western Kentucky, Bishop McRaith served as board member for Brescia University, the Daniel Pitino Center, McAuley Free Clinic in Owensboro, and Lourdes Hospital Foundation in Paducah.

Bishop McRaith was preceded in death by his parents, Arthur and Marie McRaith; his brother, James "Jim" McRaith; his sister, Jane Moening; niece Shannon Ekeren-Moening; and nephew Barry McRaith.

He is survived by his sister, Margaret Mary Madden and the following nieces and nephews: Molly Wahlgren, Meaghan Madden-VanDyke, Matthew Madden, Mary Elizabeth Lehman, Tim McRaith, Dan McRaith,



Brian Moening and Sarah Moening.

On Thursday, March 23, a tractor-pulled wagon will process with the body of Bishop McRaith from Glenn Funeral Home and Crematory, 900 Old Hartford Road to St. Stephen Cathedral, 610 Locust St.. Mass at the Cathedral will take place at 12:05 p.m. with public visitation following until 8 p.m. A wake service is scheduled for 6 p.m. at the Cathedral. On Friday, public visitation will take place at the Cathedral from 8 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. with a funeral Mass at 11 a.m. Archbishop Joseph Kurtz from the Archdiocese of Louisville will preside with Bishop William F. Medley as concelebrant. Burial at Mount Saint Joseph in Maple Mount.

Expressions of sympathy may be made in the form of donations to the Diocese of Owensboro in support of charitable work across the diocese and to Catholic Relief Services. Condolences may be left at [www.glennfuneralhome.com](http://www.glennfuneralhome.com).

### **Articles in the newspaper, Owensboro Messenger-Inquirer:**

- 2017: 3/20 p.1A ("In the footsteps of Jesus': The Most Rev. McRaith dies at 82"; the third bishop of the Diocese of Owensboro from Dec. 15, 1982, to Jan. 5, 2009, led 60,000-plus Roman Catholics in 78 parishes in western Kentucky for 26 years until his retirement at the age of 74 citing health problems; ordained as bishop of Owensboro on Dec. 15, 1982, before a crowd of more than 6,000 people; on Feb. 10, 2010, the Most Rev. William Francis Medley succeeded him as bishop of the diocese; ordained a priest of the Diocese of New Ulm, Minnesota, on Feb. 21, 1960; he became known nationally in the Catholic community when he served as executive director of the Catholic Rural Life Conference from 1971-1978; as bishop he was a board member of Brescia University, the Daniel Pitino Shelter, the McAuley Free Clinic and Lourdes Hospital Foundation in Paducah; for a time after his retirement, he lived in a double-wide mobile home on a farm owned by the diocese near West Louisville. Friends said he was never happier than when he was on a tractor)
- 2017: 3/21 p.1C ("McRaith's last ride to reflect roots: Funeral cortege will include tractor-drawn wagon", his body will be taken from Glenn Funeral Home & Crematory on a tractor-drawn wagon Thursday morning on its way to St. Stephen Cathedral, 'the bishop's church', his funeral mass will be celebrated at St. Stephen's at 11 a.m. Friday)
- 2017: 3/21 p.2C (He was the son of the late Arthur Luke McRaith and Marie Hanley McRaith. He was also preceded in death by his brother, James "Jim" McRaith; his sister, Ane Moening; niece, Shannon Ekeren-Moening; and nephew, Barry McRaith)
- 1982: 12/16 pp.5A-6A ("McRaith third bishop for Owensboro Diocese", grew up on a farm in south-central Minnesota; served as a principal and as a president of the Minnesota Catholic Education Association; began his education in a one-room school and graduated from St. John's Preparatory School in Collegeville, MN in 1952; graduate of Loras College in Dubuque, IA, and received his seminary training at St. Bernard Seminary in Dubuque; he was ordained to the priesthood on Feb. 21, 1960, served as a parish priest until 1971; in 1971 he was named director of the National Catholic Rural Life Conference, a post he held until 1978 when he was named vicar general of the Diocese of New Ulm, MN; Pope John Paul II named him bishop of Owensboro on Oct. 26, 1982)
- 2007: 12/8 p.5B ("Extraordinarily happy times' Bishop celebrating 25 years in western Kentucky", celebrated at 3 p.m. Dec. 16 at St. Stephen Cathedral)
- 2009: 1/6 p.1A ("McRaith steps down Church bishop, 74, cites health as main reason for retirement", after serving the Diocese of Owensboro for 26 years, the Most Rev. John J. McRaith's resignation had been accepted by Pope Benedict XVI, the diocese announced Monday, McRaith, 74, cited his health as the main reason for his retirement, which is effective immediately, he would have had to retire by December because of the church's mandatory retirement age of 75 for bishops; they will elect an administrator to assume diocesan governance within eight days, Pope Benedict XVI will appoint a new bishop in the next six to 18 months)



- 2009: 1/11 p.2E ("McRaith fulfilled role with distinction", McRaith, 74, cited his health for resigning about a year before he had to under mandatory retirement rules for bishops)

.....

Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Monday, 20 March 2017, p1A:



Messenger-Inquirer file photos  
 The Most Rev. John J. McRaith, bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Owensboro from Dec. 15, 1982, to Jan. 5, 2009, spoke to students during the homily of the Rainbow Mass on April 23, 1998, at the Sportscenter. Students from 22 Catholic schools attended the event.

Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Friday, 24 March 2017, p1A:



Photos by Alan Warren, Messenger-Inquirer/awarren@messenger-inquirer.com  
 Students walk by the casket of the Most Rev. John Jeremiah McRaith on top of a farm wagon as it stops at Owensboro Catholic Schools 4-6 Campus along East 22nd Street on Thursday during a procession through town to St. Stephen Cathedral.





The casket of the Most Rev. John Jeremiah McRaith, being pulled by a tractor, passes in front of students at Owensboro Catholic High School along West Parrish Avenue on Thursday during a procession through town to St. Stephen Cathedral.



Area priest pallbearers carry the casket of the Most Rev. John Jeremiah McRaith up the front steps of St. Stephen Cathedral through members of the Honor Guard of the Knights of Columbus at the end of the procession through the city.