

Liturgy of Christian Burial

✠ **Thomas Anthony Napolitano**

September 23, 1926 - May 7, 2019

Thursday, May 9, 2019 2:00 p.m.

St. Anthony Cathedral Basilica

Beaumont, Texas

Reverend Monsignor Jeremiah McGrath



“Never let anything so fill you with sorrow that you forget the joy of the resurrection.”

Mother Teresa

Gathering Rites

Reception at the Cathedral Door

Thomas was baptized in Christ. His body is now received at the door of the Cathedral, sprinkled with holy water and covered with the white pall as a reminder of his baptism.

We pray that as Thomas died and rose with Christ, that he may now be clothed in the radiance of Christ's eternal glory.

Procession

Gathering Hymn

On Eagle's Wings

Refrain

And he will raise you up on ea - gle's wings, bear you on the
breath of dawn, make you to shine like the sun, and
hold you in the palm of his hand.

After last refrain

And hold you, hold you in the palm of his hand.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'On Eagle's Wings'. It consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp). The first staff is labeled 'Refrain' and contains the lyrics 'And he will raise you up on ea - gle's wings, bear you on the'. The second staff continues with 'breath of dawn, make you to shine like the sun, and'. The third staff concludes with 'hold you in the palm of his hand.' The fourth staff is labeled 'After last refrain' and contains the lyrics 'And hold you, hold you in the palm of his hand.' The music is written in a simple, accessible style with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp.

Opening Prayer



Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

Job 19:23-27

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 23 Shepherd Me, O God

Refrain

Shep-herd me, O God, be - yond my wants, be-
yond my fears, from death in - to life.

Second Reading

I John 5:1-5

Gospel Acclamation

Gospel

Matthew 5:1-13

Homily

Prayer of the Faithful



Liturgy of the Eucharist

Preparation of the Gifts

You Raise Me Up

Preface Acclamation (Holy, Holy, Holy)

Memorial Acclamation

Great Amen

Communion Rite

The Lord's Prayer

Sign of Peace

Breaking of the Bread Litany (Lamb of God)

Reception of Holy Communion

For Catholics: As Catholics, we fully participate in the celebration of the Eucharist when we receive Holy Communion. We are encouraged to receive Communion devoutly and frequently. In order to be properly disposed to receive Communion, participants should not be conscious of grave sin and normally should have fasted for one hour. A person who is conscious of grave sin is not to receive the Body and Blood of the Lord without sacramental confession except for a grave reason where there is no opportunity of confession. In this case, the person is to be mindful of the obligation to make an act of perfect contrition, including the intention of confessing as soon as possible. (Code of Canon Law, Canon 916). A frequent reception of the sacrament of Penance is encouraged for all.

For other Christians: We welcome all Christians to this celebration of the Eucharist as our brothers and sisters. We pray that our common Baptism and the action of the Holy Spirit in this Eucharist will draw us to one another and begin to dispel the sad divisions that separate us. We pray that these will lessen and finally disappear, in keeping with Christ's prayer for us "that they all may be one" (John 17:21).

Members of the Orthodox Churches, the Assyrian Church of the East, and the Polish National Catholic Church are urged to respect the discipline of their own churches. According to the Roman Catholic discipline, the Code of Canon Law does not object to the reception of Holy Communion by Christians of these churches. (Canon 844§3).

Canon law provides Eucharistic sharing by other Christians who do not have full communion with the Catholic Church only when the diocesan bishop deems there is an exceptional circumstance and the following conditions are present: the other Christian on their own asks for the sacrament, they manifest a Catholic faith in the sacrament, are properly disposed and cannot approach a minister of their own community (Canon 844§4).

For non-Christians: We also welcome to this celebration those who do not share our faith in Jesus Christ. We have high regard for their traditions, friendship, and join them in promoting unity among all peoples. It is our joy to unite with them in praying for the peace and unity of the human family while respecting our common traditions, which do not include Eucharist sharing.

For all not receiving Communion: All who are not receiving Holy Communion are invited to express their prayerful desire for unity with God and with one another by approaching the altar at communion time with their hands crossed over their hearts. The minister will pray for this unity at the front of the Cathedral with all those in the communion line who have their hands crossed over their hearts.

Communion Hymn

Here I Am, Lord

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you
call-ing in the night. I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.

Text: Isaiah 6; Dan Schutte
Tune: Dan Schutte; Arr. by Michael Pope, SJ, John Weissrock
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Meditation Hymn

How Great Thou Art

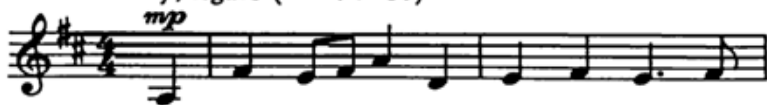
Prayer after Communion

Final Commendation

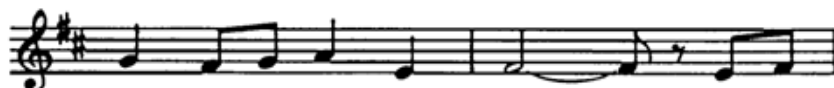
Invitation to Prayer

Song of Farewell

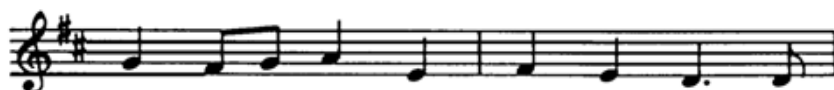
Gently, legato (♩ = 74-80)



May songs of the an - gels wel - come you and



guide you a - long your way. — May the



smiles of the mar - tyrs greet your own as



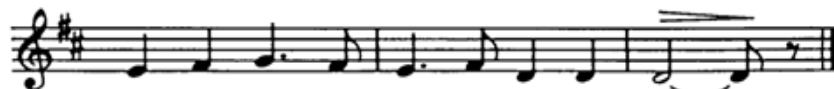
dark - ness turns in-to day. — Ev - 'ry fear will



be un - done and death will be no



more, — as songs of the an - gels



bring you home be - fore the face of God. —

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Prayer of Commendation

Song of Commendation

Songs of the Angels



Gaetano Antonio Napolitano was born September 23, 1926 in the Greenpoint section of Brooklyn, New York. He was the youngest of five children and was adored by his Italian immigrant parents John and Mary Napolitano, who affectionately deemed him “the baby” of the clan—an identity which would last a lifetime. Gaetano was devoted to his entire family, especially his mother. His respect and love for her was palpable. His mother played a principle role in his character and faith formation, thereby preparing him for his future role as husband, father, son-in-law, brother-in-law, father-in-law, and ultimately grandfather and great-grandfather.

Gaetano officially became known as Thomas when his first-grade teacher changed his name and told him it was too difficult to pronounce and unbecoming a first generation American. Thomas being a people pleaser, immediately acquiesced, as did his parents and siblings. Hence, Gaetano became Thomas, became Tommy, became Tommy Nap—the name by which he was identified throughout his life. It is important to reveal the man behind the name—a name in which he was always proud. The son of Italian immigrants, he took pride in his birthplace and the opportunities provided to him. His parents owned a bread bakery and as a young boy, he would often work beside his father proofing dough, operating ovens and delivering bread in a wagon led by the beloved Charlie, the horse who embarked on the daily route by rote. Thomas enlisted in the United States Army and served in the Philippines and Korea during World War II. He often recalled the events of that period, revealing it was a privilege and honor to serve the greatest country in the world, the United States of America.

In 1948 he met Maria Brigida Ferrante on a blind date, and it was love at first sight. He and Mary married in 1950; his mother-in-law Vita, a widow, was charmed from the start. It seemed the adage of a young man who loves his mother will love his wife was befitting in his case. In fact, not only did he love his wife, he loved his mother-in-law as well. She resided with Mary, Tommy and their children Maryann, John, and Vincent until her death in 1970. Yet, another example of the man—the Tommy Nap everyone knew and loved. He developed a routine which included visiting his mother every day after work and bringing his family to visit her and his sister Sadie every Sunday after nine o'clock Mass. Indulging in a freshly fried meatball became the bonus; however, it did not take long for this weekly reward to become the focus of a friendly feud between both families when comparing the Neapolitan and Sicilian versions of a meatball recipe.

Tommy Nap loved Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia and was employed by the New York City Department of Sanitation, a job that provided benefits and security for his family. He loved the City of New York for affording him the opportunity to become a homeowner. His income was limited; however, if anyone experienced hardship, he provided assistance. His wife Mary would often say, “How could a man who earns the least help the most?” His standard response to any dilemma was “Don’t worry about it. I’ll take care of it.” And he did. Sometimes he worked as many as four jobs at a time. He was such a special guy; he never complained. This man did everything in his power to support his family and assist others. As summer approached, he sat at the kitchen table and counted all of the change he had saved throughout the year in Nescafé coffee cans. He used this money to take the entire family, mother-in-law included, to Lake George where he provided a respite from the city, the concrete and the intensity of the summer heat. Tommy Nap was the man upon whom everyone depended. His wife and children knew they were loved, and he would openly demonstrate it and say it—he would utter those words during a period in history when it may not have been customary for a man to express his emotions. He made family members aware of his unconditional love and devotion. Through his progeny, his identity took on different dimensions; he went from being “Dad” to “Papa Tom,” and he lived up to the responsibility and enjoyment each role brought with it. The sun rose and set with all of his grandchildren and his great-grandchildren. He loved Gina’s husband Doug and Laura’s husband Pat. He always referred to them as his own. While he was Confirmation sponsor to Doug, his grandson Pat assumed the role of personal bookie for all major horse races.



Although Christmas always brought presents, Italian traditions were at the forefront of every meal, celebration and holiday. Tommy Nap instilled that being American was most important but being immersed in Italian culture and following Italian customs must be adhered to ad litteram. It was Tommy Nap who did without as he made certain Valentine’s Day brought elaborate Loft’s hearts filled with chocolate candy, and Easter brought stuffed bunnies and candy filled baskets not only for his daughter, sons, and wife, but also his mother and his mother-in-law. He was the shopper; he would hide gifts in the hallway—never ever expecting anything in return. When he was the recipient of a gift, he tearfully responded “Thank you. Thank you.” Tommy Nap taught his children how to love and how to share through his every word and deed. He manifested the love of the Father. He worked until he was eighty-five years old. His colleagues, who were much younger than he, routinely called to check on him and to discuss work and family, often seeking his advice. He was good to the core.



Tommy Nap loved God and was devoted to the Blessed Mother, and as he entered church, he would grin from ear to ear and whisper, “I have to go see my girlfriend.” His family members knew that meant he was going to light a candle to the Blessed Mother and recite his Hail Mary’s. He was quite a character! His favorite hymn was “Here I Am Lord.”

He loved a good dish of pasta, a good piece of bread, a good bottle of wine, a good cup of demitasse with Sambucca and a good cannolo. As far as he and Mary were concerned life revolved around faith, family, food, and the kitchen and dining room tables. Ultimately, their penchant for cooking and devotion to family earned them a spot on the Cooking Channel’s *Mo Rocca’s: My Grandmother’s Ravioli*. Tommy Nap was revered as the head of the family, and Mary doted on him in deference to his role. However, this was not to be misunderstood, for it was he who became Mary’s caretaker when she was seriously ill— he was always first to run to the rescue. He indulged in every meal prepared by Mary with gusto, gratitude, deliberation and sheer delight, particularly when he was surrounded by his wife, children, son-in-law, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. If anyone were to ask him if he was happy, he would respond, “Are you kiddin’ me? Look what I have!” He loved to plant Italian vegetables and was a master gardener before the term was coined. He loved a good joke and was the consummate jokester and storyteller.

He loved the Brooklyn Dodgers, the Yankees and the Giants. He loved music, particularly the Big Bands and crooners: Frank Sinatra, Jimmy Roselli (renowned Neapolitan tenor), Vic Damone, Frankie Lane, Jerry Vale, Julius LaRosa, Lou Monte, Louie Prima, Rosemary Clooney, and Tony Bennett. In fact, while Tony Bennett’s “Smile” was a song he sang in the face of adversity, it was Jimmy Roselli’s rendition of “Oh Marie” he sang to his wife Mary, much to her delight. Oh, how he loved Mary. He took pride in his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren and encouraged them to “always

look up.” He advised them to regroup and reassess as he begged the question, “Why would [you] look at the ground when [you] can look at the sky?” He was old fashioned— an honest man, one of integrity. He never understood the need for a lawyer when a man had his word and his handshake to seal any deal and honor any commitment. Everyone who met him and knew him, from his peers to the power players in his arena, loved him, consulted him, trusted him, included him, and respected him.

On June 17, 2013 Thomas Anthony Napolitano and his wife Mary moved from Long Island, New York to Beaumont, Texas. He left his home but his allegiance to the great state of New York, his birthplace, never waned. Although a die-hard New Yorker, he ultimately assimilated and embraced the culture and traditions of Southeast Texas and forged relationships with Brenda and Georgia of the deli department at HEB on Dowlen Road, Jude Messina of Deb’s Liquor, and Chris and Stacy of Chase Bank on Phelan Boulevard. Chase Bank must take note that Tommy Nap was dismayed by their decision to switch from Dum Dum’s to a generic brand of lollipops. He did not understand how a bank that made so much money could skimp on lollipops. Absolutely unacceptable!

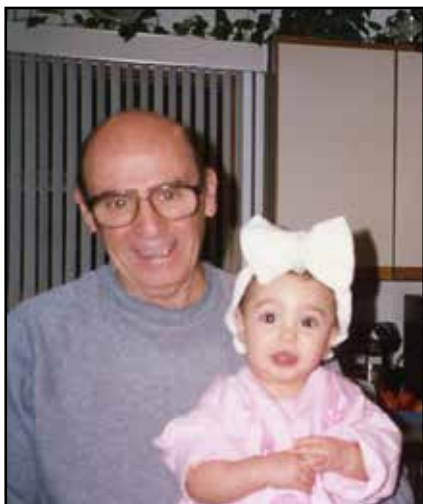


Thomas is survived by his wife Mary; daughter Maryann and son-in-law Michael DeMayo (AKA The Irishman); son John Napolitano; granddaughter Gina and her husband Douglas Goodenough; granddaughter Laura and her husband Patrick Steele; granddaughter Nicole Napolitano, granddaughter Danielle and her husband James Gallagher, granddaughter Jaimie and her husband Jason Castellano; grandson John Napolitano; great-grandsons Michael and Peter Goodenough, Thomas Steele, Jason Castellano, James Gallagher; great-granddaughters Lucia Steele, Emma Castellano, Isabella and Charlotte Gallagher. He is preceded in death by his son Vincent Napolitano.

The family would like to thank Bishop Curtis Guillory, Monsignor Jerry McGrath, Dr. George Thomas, Dr. Allen McGrew, Dr. Maria Blahey, Amanda Minick, Brittany Syphrett, Katina Musgrove, Megan Flanagan, Trenda Holmes, Sydney Cornwell, Jesse Edgerton, Elaine Stephen, Jean Stephenson, Mona Vincent, Amy Terrell, Pastor Pitre, Mary Anderson, Dori Cruz, Jolie Espares, Wanda Johnson and the entire staff of Compassion Hospice for their kindness and gentility in ministering to Thomas Anthony Napolitano during his final days.



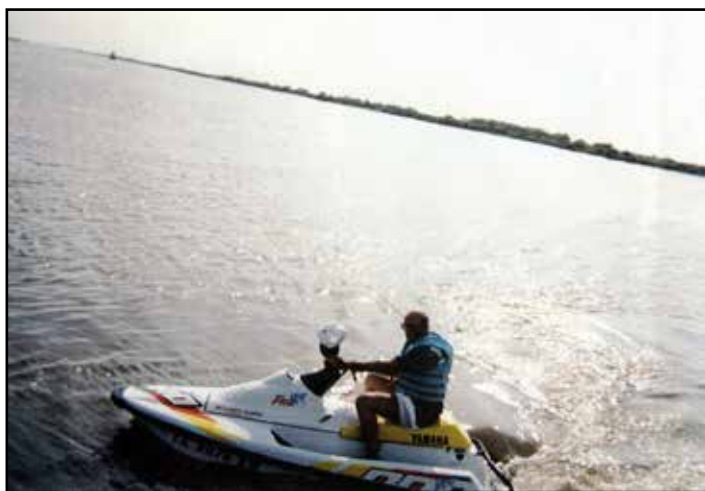
















**Celebrant
Presiding
Placing the Pall**

**Reverend Monsignor Jeremiah McGrath
Most Reverend Curtis J. Guillory, S.V.D., D.D.
Antoine LeBlanc, Joe Domino
Don Maloney, Ed Gripon
Mark Bartilucci, Jude Messina
Michael DeMayo, Dr. Denny Harris
Abigail Dueppen, Vocalist
Dr. Sujung Cho, Organist**

**Gift Bearers
Lectors
Music Ministers**



Interment

Monday, May 13, 2019
St. John's Cemetery
Middle Village, New York



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Saint Anthony Cathedral Basilica Mission Statement

"A caring Catholic community celebrating and sacrificially sharing God's love with all peoples through spirituality, scripture, sacrament, stewardship, study and service."



Please sign Mr. Napolitano's guest book and share your memories at
broussards1889.com