



*...I have finished the race;
I have kept the faith. Now
the crown of righteousness
awaits me; on that day our
God, will award it to me
— and not only to me but
to all who have longed
for Christ's appearance.*

2 Timothy 4; 7-8

FATHER RICH CREASON

Born: January 26, 1941

Ordination: March 11, 1967

Entered God's loving embrace: March 31, 2020

The call to priesthood as a parish priest is a profound vocation. Daily, Father Rich passionately lived his priestly vocation. Every year on March 26, Father Rich renewed and deepened his commitment to priesthood. His daily commitment to service as a priest of the church is celebrated in the liturgy of the anointing of priests by the local bishop at the chrism mass of Holy Thursday.

Two weeks before he crossed the threshold into eternal life, he again voiced his commitment in his annual renewal ceremony. He spoke his recommitment through tears but with strong voice.

Those assembled asked: Are you resolved to unite yourself with Christ and to live like him, joyfully sacrificing for others to bring His peace to all your brothers and sisters?

Father Rich: I am. I Ask God that I may become more like Christ Jesus, our good shepherd and teacher of all; that I may be a genuine sign of Christ's loving presence among you.

Gratefully we recognize Christ's loving presence among us in Father Rich. What he vowed, with God's grace he lived. We are blessed through his gift of faithfulness.

We hold in our hearts cherished memories of our dear brother, Father Rich. With joy each of us presents him to God with thanksgiving for the gift he is among us. He has given each of us precious gifts of vision, courage, laughter, stories and faith. We are entrusted with his legacy. How will each of us take his gifts to build a loving, compassionate world?

We hear him say: "My dear friends, now is the time!"

The celebration of his life will take place at a future time.