

MEMORIES OF FR. CHARLIE SHARED AT MEMORIAL SERVICE  
JANUARY 7, 2008

My fondest memory was when my daughter was very ill at Children's Hospital and Fr. Charlie visited her every week, even though as a teenager she did not want to be visited. Father visited every week for 2 months. "Fr. Charlie may the perpetual light shine upon you."

My fondest memory was when Fr. Charlie used to sing part of the mass. His voice was so beautiful.

When my husband was ill for several years, Fr. Charlie visited often and took care that all the sacraments were completed (especially confession). I was so reassured by this.

When I was in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, he visited our class and let us ask questions. He baptized my little brother.

Fr Charlie had such joy when using incense and also when he administered the holy oils during the Easter Vigil.

Fr. Charlie was part of our interfaith wedding in our chapel. He was very open and inviting and always made folks feel welcome.

When we joined the parish 3 years ago, we got a bible with a handwritten note from Fr. Charlie. He remembered our names and always asked about our family.

On the Sunday after 9/11, Fr. Charlie asked me if I had any relatives near the towers. I didn't even realize he knew I was from New York. Someone in our family was at the Pentagon, but uninjured. He said he would pray for them. I was very moved.

My friend Earl was taken to the hospital gravely ill. Fr. Charlie visited him, even though he was so ill himself. Two days later Father was taken to the hospital. He was everyone's friend. Rest in Peace, Fr. Charlie.

I would like to remember him at Oktoberfest, with his beige shirt and little tan shorts picking up trash. Someone asked me who the little guy was, and I told them our pastor. He was always serving.

Something came to me after Mass. The Star of Bethlehem is very special to me. It occurred to me that we follow the star to Jesus, but can also follow it to heaven and that's what Fr. Charlie did.

I had several surgeries, and Fr. Charlie always anointed me beforehand. He made me feel at peace, and you just knew you were going to be okay.

Fr. had such grace with our children, especially during Reconciliation. He made them feel at ease and encouraged their young faith. He said “I will pray with you”.

When approached by a child in the parish about the Kids Serve spaghetti dinner, Fr. Charlie was very encouraging and positive, asking “Great, can we have meatballs?” He really believed in the kids and encouraged their young faith.

When you confessed your sins, Father would tell folks to ask Jesus what that was like to go through for him.

Fr. Charlie was so welcoming to new families. He was very kind towards children and “kid noise” during mass. My two year old turned over the holy water font during a mass in the chapel, spilling water all over with a loud crash. Fr. took the blame because he did not put enough water in it to keep it from tipping. He always encouraged parents to bring their children to mass.

When we asked Father about our son’s engagement to a Jewish woman, he asked one question: “Is Sarah practicing her faith?” Then everything will be all right.

Micah 7:8 What the Lord requires each of us to do: Only do the right, love goodness, walk humbly with our God. Fr. Charlie was that kind of man.

Fr. Charlie was awesome with our family. When baby Joey was born so sick, we could not have gotten through that without Fr. Charlie’s presence. He was with us at the hospital, and sat with us when Joey passed away. I was at peace because Fr. Charlie said everything would be okay. I wanted Joey’s mass to include children, and on the day he was buried it was snowing and the kids were all off of school. The church was packed with children. He also blesses the young children when they come up at Communion time. My kids go elsewhere and comment that the priest didn’t bless them. He was Joey’s priest. Thank you, Fr. Charlie.

Father was very affirming with performance reviews and a great boss. Many staff members saved their reviews to lift them up. At our first staff meeting, he said “I will always support you. You are my staff”.

From a child...I remember my First Communion and First Reconciliation and when Fr. Charlie visited our class in second grade.

From a child...Fr. Charlie was nice to me and was concerned about some problems I had in my life. He cared about me.

Fr. Charlie was wonderful to plan a funeral with and be on the Bereavement team with. He made sure everything was ready so that we could minister to the family.

Father showed such joy at baptisms – especially at the Easter Vigil. He had joy in the rituals. He loved being in the water to baptize folks.

Father was so intelligent, and had such wisdom. He trusted each of us to use the gifts we had and encouraged us to grow in our faith.

Fr. Charlie loved to anoint with lots of oil for the sacrament of the sick. When he slathered it on, you felt as if you were wrapped in God's love and power.

He showed us such strength when he approached death. He was so peaceful and ready to be with our Lord.

At 10:30 at night, Father visited a sick parishioner at home. It was much appreciated.

Father would stand up (with much difficulty) and bless you after reconciliation. You could really feel the power in that. He always put others' needs first.

Fr. Charlie was able to bless the new children's Atrium during his illness. It was his list official blessing. I will never forget that.

I will remember the fun things, the garbage clean up at Oktoberfest. Fr. Charlie always looked for the joy. How did Christ experience his life? With joy and abundance!

Father so enjoyed the Breaking Open the Word with the children. He said we were doing a greater good by taking the children out to help them understand scripture.

"There are no mistakes in liturgy...only surprises" ☺