



## Rev. Michael Keith LaBove

March 5, 1955 - March 9, 2019

Funeral services will be held on Thursday, March 14, 2019, at a 2:00 P.M. Mass of Christian Burial in the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist, for Reverend Michael Keith LaBove, 64, who died on Saturday, March 9, 2019 at Consolata Nursing Home.

The Most Reverend J. Douglas Deshotel, Bishop of Lafayette, will be the celebrant of the funeral Mass and Reverend Louis Richard will be the homilist.

Guests are invited to a visitation at Martin & Castille's DOWNTOWN location on Wednesday from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM with a recitation of the Rosary at 7:00 PM. Visitation will resume on Thursday at 1:00 PM inside the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist until time of service.

Interment will be in Woodlawn Cemetery in Crowley.

Father Michael Keith LaBove grew up in Acadia Parish, the son of Lloyd Moise LaBove and Rita Leleux. He attended local schools in Morse and Midland until he entered Immaculata Seminary High School in 1972. This was followed by studies at St. Joseph Seminary College, followed by graduate work at the American College and the Catholic University of Louvain in Belgium. Ordained in 1981 for the Diocese of Lafayette, his first parish assignment was at St. Michael Catholic Church in Crowley followed by parish assignments in Lawtell, Arnaudville, Our Lady of Wisdom at UL, and Milton.

In the early 1990's Father Keith began to be involved in medical ethics and in hospital ministry, beginning with 6 years as full-time chaplain at Lafayette General Medical Center. He went on to serve as hospital chaplain at Heart Hospital of Lafayette and Women's and Children's Hospital, while serving as pastor of St. Patrick Church in Lafayette. He has served on various diocesan advisory boards including for the Continuing Formation of Clergy, the Clergy Welfare Committee, and the Council of Priests, as well as the Priests' Personnel Board. Over the years, he has given numerous seminars and talks, mostly focusing on various aspects of morality, but also including liturgy and worship, grief, and

spirituality. In recent years, he has given seminars around the Diocese on “End of Life” issues, sharing Church teaching on medical decision making at the end of life. He was a regular presenter on the TV program, “Tell the People” and wrote periodically for the Acadiana Catholic, the diocesan newsmagazine. His commitment to promoting a “consistent ethic of life” has led to presentations on the dignity and sanctity of all human life, in the face of abortion, euthanasia, and the death penalty. His interests in the social justice teaching of the Church has led to talks on Faithful Citizenship, including issues such as racism, a just wage, war and peace, and the call to promote the common good. His pro-life interests extend to the need for a just society where the dignity of every human person, both the innocent and the guilty, is respected.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Lloyd and Rita, his maternal grandparents Walter Leleux & Orise Hebert Leleux and his paternal grandparents, Moise LaBove and Almena Lafosse LaBove. He is survived by his sister, Janice LaBove, his stepmother Rose LaBove, and his stepsister Vickie Bullock.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Catholic Charities of Acadiana, P.O. Box 3177, Lafayette, LA 70502.

View the obituary and guestbook online at [www.mourning.com](http://www.mourning.com)

Martin & Castille-DOWNTOWN-330 St. Landry St., Lafayette, LA 70506, 337-234-2311

# Cemetery

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# Events

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## Woodlawn Cemetery

Avenue F

Crowley, LA, 70526

**MAR** **Visitation** 05:00PM - 08:00PM

**13**

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Martin & Castille Funeral Home - Downtown Location  
330 St. Landry St., Lafayette, LA, US, 70506

**MAR** **Rosary** 07:00PM - 07:45PM

**13**

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Martin & Castille Funeral Home - Downtown Location  
330 St. Landry St., Lafayette, LA, US, 70506

**MAR** **Visitation** 01:00PM - 02:00PM

**14**

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Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist  
515 Cathedral St., Lafayette, LA, US, 70501

**MAR** **Funeral Mass** 02:00PM - 03:00PM

**14**

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Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist  
515 Cathedral St., Lafayette, LA, US, 70501

# Comments

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“ A tribute video has been added.



**Martin & Castille Funeral Home** - March 10, 2019 at 02:36 PM



“ Father Keith was an amazing priest. I spent many hours in long conversations about God's love and, God's love for mankind. He will be deeply missed by all who knew him and his many acts of kindness. He is, now resting in the arms of his heavenly Father.

**Yvonne John** - March 14, 2019 at 09:53 PM

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“ I was a classmate of Keith's until he left for the seminary. We were all proud of his service in the priesthood. I cherish the last time I saw him--he joined several other classmates from Midland High in Lafayette for a dinner where we share stories, had fun, and broke bread together. His kindness, goodness, and friendship will be remembered and missed.

Terry Thibodeaux  
MHS Class of 1973

**Terry M. Thibodeaux** - March 14, 2019 at 11:14 PM

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“ I would like to share my condolences and prayers to the family of FATHER KEITH. I as a Usher at St Patrick's under his services will always remember him in my thoughts and prayers and will continue to serve as an usher St Patrick's.

Donald L Vallot St.

Thanks



Donald L Vallot St. - March 14, 2019 at 02:48 PM

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“ Keith was one a kind, sweet, and helpful man. I am so saddened by his passing. I know he is home with his maker and at peace. I will remember his kind words and smile! RIP Father Michael Keith LaBove!

Kelly B. Laborde - March 14, 2019 at 12:09 PM

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“ My heart was filled with sorrow at hearing of the passing of such a God filled man. I have been Blessed to have known such a God Loving servant of God. I first met Father Keith at LGMC and then again at WCH. He always had a smile and a Blessing. His Masses at St. Patrick's Catholic Church and St Leo the Great both in Lafayette, LA were always warm and to the point touching your heart in such a loving way. I will miss you but my spirit rejoices because you are no longer suffering and you are now with our Lord Jesus Christ. Rest in Peace my friend.



Wendi Reynaud Sonnier - March 13, 2019 at 12:28 PM

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“ My heart hurts because I have lost a true friend. He was an incredible priest and so wise. My faith tells me he is in eternal joyful bliss, just where he should be. He is missed.

Natalie S

natalie - March 12, 2019 at 07:30 PM

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“ Fr. Keith was an outstanding Priest. He had a love of the Eucharist and of our Lord. He always said a beautiful Mass and his homilies were excellent. My Spirit always felt well fed after attending one of his Masses. Fr. Keith also taught me how to serve daily Mass as a newly ordained deacon. I will always remember his patient guidance and cherish those times we had together.

- Deacon Brian Kirk

Brian Kirk - March 11, 2019 at 11:25 AM

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“ Sending my condolences and prayers to the family of Fr. Keith. I have great childhood memories of serving mass with him at St Michael in Crowley during the 80s. Good guy

Patrick Pellerin - March 10, 2019 at 11:26 PM

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“ My prayers go out to Father Keith's family. I will miss seeing him at 7:30 daily Mass at St. Patrick's. His short homilies were always filled with meaning and blessing for we who heard them. May Father Keith rest in peace in the loving arms of our God. Bettie Skains Sonnier

Bettie Skains Sonnier - March 10, 2019 at 07:05 PM

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“ I met Father Keith when he was here in Crowley at St. Michael's. We would see each other from time to time during the years. He was a very humble, peaceful pious priest and I liked that about him. May he rest in peace through eternity. Butch C.....A Friend of Bill W.

Butch C. - March 10, 2019 at 05:15 PM



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“ 151 files added to the album LifeTributes



**Martin & Castille Funeral Home** - March 10, 2019 at 01:27 PM

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“ While working at Heart Hospital of Lafayette I had the privilege of getting to know Fr. Keith.

From the passion he had for his ministry in attending the sick, to his sharing his photos of his vacations in the New Mexico mountains. The most pleasant surprise came when my wife and I bumped into him near the church in Santa Fe. A man of the cloth and truly a man of his Catholic faith.

Tommy Duhon

**Tommy & Clarecia** - March 10, 2019 at 11:38 AM

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“ May he rest in the peace and love of Jesus Christ. He was a kind and caring priest. Prayers going out to the family.

God Bless

Liz Webb Pavy

**Elizabeth Pavy** - March 10, 2019 at 11:29 AM

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“ Rev. Benjamin J. Pitre purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Rev. Michael Keith LaBove.



**Rev. Benjamin J. Pitre** - March 10, 2019 at 09:47 AM



“ I came to know and love Fr. Keith as the hospital chaplain at Women’s & Childrens Hospital. He cared deeply for the patients and families as well as the staff caring for them. I will forever be thankful for his devotion and kindness and especially for his sense of humor, understanding and many words of encouragement. May he Rest In Eternal Peace! Tina Boyer RN

**Tina Boyer** - March 09, 2019 at 09:43 PM

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“ Janice, so sorry to hear about Keith, did not know he was here in New Iberia, would have love to say hello. Will try to be there on Wed. Nite.

Bryan Trahan

**Bryan Trahan** - March 09, 2019 at 09:17 PM

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“ Prayers for all the family and friends...all that were touched by Fr. LaBove. We grew up a few houses from each other. Thanks, for your service! Rest in Peace!

**Charlene LeBlanc Kibodeaux** - March 09, 2019 at 05:07 PM

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“ Keith and I were members of the same priest support group in the 1980s and 1990s, and I was always touched by his genuine care for others. He was truly one of the most loving and understanding least people I know. Even in the last days of this vicious illness, Keith was attentive / kind enough to 'like' my birthday greeting on FB just a few days ago. My heart truly hurts today.

**David Coupar** - March 09, 2019 at 04:21 PM

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“ So sorry to here of Fr LaBove passing. He and I were classmates in Leuven for our four years of Theological studies in preparation for the priesthood. We were likewise in Liturgical Music for the seminary, both of us playing guitar. Be assured of my prayers. I am in Leuven right now so prayers from here will be good. Fr Henry P Zinno Jr. Diocese of Providence RI

**Rev Henry P Zinno Jr** - March 09, 2019 at 03:31 PM