



The Josephites

Official Statement on the passing of Most Reverend John H. Ricard, SSJ

Washington, DC — It is with deep sorrow that the Josephites announce the passing of Most Reverend John H. Ricard, SSJ, Superior General of the Josephites and Bishop Emeritus of the Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee, who died on May 20, 2026, at Saint Joseph's Seminary in Washington, DC.

Born on February 29, 1940, Bishop Ricard faithfully served the Catholic Church for decades through his ministry as a Josephite priest, counselor, educator, pastor, bishop, humanitarian, and leader. He devoted his life to the proclamation of the Gospel, humanitarian efforts worldwide, the mission of the Josephite Society, and the pastoral care of God's people, especially within Black Catholic communities.

The Josephite community asks for prayers for the repose of Bishop Ricard's soul, for the Josephite community, his family, friends, and all who mourn his passing.

Further information regarding funeral arrangements and memorial services will be shared soon.

Media & Public Inquiries

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