

Msgr. Thomas Barrett Armstrong, PH, ARCT, BA, LCG, LCSC. This steadfast servant of the Lord Jesus and priest of the Archdiocese of Toronto died peacefully on Nov 14, 2009, only days before his 80th birthday.

As a dedicated and selfless teacher and choir director from 1958 to 2004, he engendered a love for music in the hearts of hundreds of students who passed through St. Michael's Choir School. Many of his students went on to careers in music, either in the service of the church, in education, in composition, or on the concert stage. Humour was a constant element in his teaching style, the pun being a favourite device.

In his forty-year tenure as director of music, he regularly conducted the choirs in weekly services at St. Michael's Cathedral, inspiring countless parishioners and visitors to the cathedral, reaching thousands more through the choir school's concerts, recordings and tours. He composed a great deal of music for the liturgy. In September 2002, Msgr. Armstrong received the Queen's Jubilee Medal for his contribution to music in Canada. He was named Conductor Emeritus of the choir in 2003, and retired in 2004.

Survived by sisters-in-law Mary and Rita Armstrong, and nieces/nephews Denis, Peter, Matthew & Elizabeth; Sharon, Frances, Paul & Julie; Cathy & John. He will be dearly missed by all alumni, staff, parents, parishioners, and fellow clergy.

Visitation will take place in St. Michael's Cathedral (Shuter & Bond Sts): Wed Nov 18, 2 p.m. (Office of Readings) to 4:30 p.m., 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. (prayers at 7 p.m.). Visitation resumes 8 a.m. Thurs Nov 19; Mass of Christian Burial at 10 a.m. Interment at Queen of the Clergy Cemetery, Scarborough. Donations towards a memorial scholarship may be addressed to The Gift of Monsignor T. Barrett Armstrong, 66 Bond St, Toronto ON M5B 1X2, or to make a donation online visit smcs.on.ca