



Deacon Leonard Benzel

September 11, 1932 - March 31, 2014

Leonard Benzel passed away March 31, 2014 at the age of 81.

Leonard was born September 11, 1932 in Mitchell, Nebraska to Carl and Mollie Benzel. Leonard was one of 14 children who grew up on a farm in Sidney, Nebraska. Leonard was a Sargent in the Army from 1954 to 1955 and married Claire Belle Koester on June 28, 1958. They moved to Fort Collins, Colorado in 1965 to start his career at Sears CO. He was ordained as a Deacon in the Catholic Church on May 9, 1981. He loved to build things out of wood, square dance, waterski with family and spend time with his lovely wife, children and grandchildren.

Leonard is survived by his wife Belle, of 55 years; his children Brenda Hartman (Doug), Tom Benzel, Randy Benzel (Susan), Nancy Behrendt (Tim), Molly Jones (Troy), and Amy Smith (Mark); his brother Robert Benzel, his eight sisters Peggy Fehringer, Judy Benzel, Joan Dallegge, Betty Devries, Alice Mitchell, Barbara Keeler, Helen Eich, Ruth Pearl. He was loved by his 8 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren.

Leonard is preceded in death by his parents, Carl and Mollie Benzel; brothers, Harry Benzel and Dan Benzel; and sisters, Mollie Benzel and Elsie Grothe. Leonard will be joined in Heaven with his sons Jeffrey and Kevin Benzel.

Evening Vespers and Rosary will be observed at 7:00pm on Thursday April 3, 2014 at Blessed John XXIII Parish, located at 1220 University Avenue Fort Collins, Colorado 80521. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated by Archbishop Samuel J. Aquila on Friday April 4, 2014 at 10:30am at Blessed John XXIII Parish.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Catholic Charities in care of Goes Funeral Care, 3665 Canal Dr. Suite #E Fort Collins, Colorado 80524.

Cemetery

Resthaven Memorial Gardens Cemetery

8426 S College Ave

Fort Collins, CO, 80525

Events

APR 3 **Evening Vespers and
Rosary** 07:00PM -
08:00PM

St. John XXIII

1220 University Ave, Fort Collins, CO, US,
80521

APR 4 **Mass of Christian
Burial** 10:30AM -
12:00PM

St. John XXIII

1220 University Ave, Fort Collins, CO, US,
80521

Comments



“ So sorry to hear about your loss. Leonard married us in July 1991 at St. Joseph's and as others have stated, he made the ceremony special while putting us completely at ease. I regret that I didn't get to reconnect with him and let him know that we are now the parents of 4 children ourselves. I hope you find comfort in knowing that he made such a difference in so many people's lives.

Sincerely
Wendell and Terry Thomas
Bogota, Colombia

Terry Thomas - April 09, 2014 at 08:39 AM



“ Dear Belle,
I am very sorry for your loss. I hope you find comfort in the faith that was such an important part of Leonard's life.
My prayers are with you and your family,
Anna Maria Georg

Anna Maria Georg - April 07, 2014 at 11:32 PM



“ Dear Tom and Family,

Michelle and I are saddened by the loss of Leonard. It was an honor to have known him. May Christ give you all peace.

Kevin and Michelle Geohring

Kevin Geohring - April 06, 2014 at 06:39 PM



“ Dear Aunt Belle and Family,
So sorry for your loss. Uncle Leonard was a great man and we have never forgotten his words on our wedding day. Our prayers are with you. God bless you, comfort you, and give you peace during this difficult time.
With Love in Christ,
Levi and Jennifer Travis

Levi and Jen Travis - April 06, 2014 at 11:01 AM



“ Dear Belle and Family,
Please know that my thoughts and prayers are with you. What a fine man Leonard was and what a joy it has been to know you and your family through the years -- because of our mutual friendship and love of the McClendon family. I was very sorry not to be able to attend his service. I trust you are finding God's peace and care, and I know you have many happy memories. My love, Betty Moseley

Betty Moseley - April 05, 2014 at 04:24 PM



“ Belle and Family - Don and I are saddened to learn of Leonard's death. We were very privileged to have known him and we know that he will be missed by everyone who was honored to have known him. Don and Laurretta Hlebichuk

Don and Laurretta Hlebichuk - April 05, 2014 at 09:49 AM



“ My thoughts and prayers are with you Belle and family. Leonard was an exceptional human being. Sincerely, Jim O'Neill

Jim O'Neill - April 04, 2014 at 11:07 PM



“ Leonard was such a special man. He had a special place in his heart for his faith, this family and his love, Belle, His wit and his humor would always leave me with a smile after a visit with him. No one had more energy and zest for life. Leonard made anyone he was around at ease. You could not love him and his family who reflected his virtues. We will all miss Leonard but know that he is with our savior. Leonard is probably telling us now that we better pay attention to what we do and say if we are to be with him and The Almighty some day. I offer my condolences to Belle and his family who feel the loss of their husband , father, grandfather and great grand father Jerry Smith

Jerry Smith - April 04, 2014 at 10:39 PM



“ Mr. Benzel. I have so many memories. Being my good friend's dad, being my Webalos leader, and being the Deacon who married me and my wife in 1987 - even though we went through a LOT of therapy with him first before he would perform the service!! But my fondest memory, in a weird sort of way, is when he smacked me so hard it knocked me off me feet. I was waiting for the Wednesday night basketball to open up at O'Dea grade school, and he was one of the volunteers that night. I was being impatient, and said a curse word in front of him. WHAP! smacked me in the side of my head and told me to NEVER talk like that, especially in front of an adult!! I learned my lesson, and to this day I thank him for setting me straight. God Bless Mr. Benzel, and the entire Benzel Clan.

Jay Robinson

Jay Robinson - April 04, 2014 at 03:47 PM



“ Leonard was a very important man in the Catholic Community. He always made people feel at home no matter where one was. He blessed our marriage on our 30th anniversary when our four daughters gave us a wonderful celebration party. Leonard loved his Church and always said Blessed John XXIII Parish was "The friendly one". He will be greatly missed!
Our prayers are with Belle and family.
Ray and Nina Velasquez

Ray & Nina Velasquez - April 04, 2014 at 09:33 AM



“ Deacon Benzel helped make our wedding day a perfect memory. He, along with a Pastor from First Christian Church, married us on August 8, 1981. Although it will soon be 33 years we still remember how kind he was and how quickly he put us both at ease. We knew that being married by both a Deacon and a Pastor was unusual but we were blending two families and wanted to respect both sides of our family. Belle, we met you too and you were just as warm and loving as Leonard. You both blessed us and we're sorry for your loss. May Christ give you and your family peace.
Bill and Janet Gleiforst.

Bill and Janet Gleiforst - April 03, 2014 at 09:14 PM



“ Leonard, you were such an important part of Catholic ministry in the Fort Collins churches. You were a lovely man of character, humor and God's love. Thank you for blessing our marriage on our 25th anniversary...wish you could have been here for our 50th. We wish Belle and your entire family the peace that the memories of your life with them will bring. Thank you for your friendship and ministry.
Jim and Loretta Madden

Loretta and Jim Madden - April 02, 2014 at 09:06 PM



“ Thank you Leonard for being a man of integrity, love, and hope. You inspired us to keep a balance in our lives at a time when we were so lost. You taught us to keep God at the forefront of our marriage and our family close in heart and home. You and Belle were such a wonderful example of what a Christian marriage is and you will always hold a special place in our memories and prayers. God Bless you Leonard. May you rest in God's glory. Love and prayers, Ray and Debbie Gillan

Debbie Gillan - April 02, 2014 at 03:37 PM



“ My heart was heavy with sorrow losing my brother and now I am at peace with his death as I know he is with God in heaven and reunited with family that left before him. He served the Lord well and raised a wonderful family with his sweet wife. Cherish the memories you have with him and he will live in her hearts forever. May God comfort all of you at this time of sorrow. I love you all.

Peggy

Peggy - April 02, 2014 at 03:23 PM



“ Leonard was such a GOOD man. He always had a kind word and a smile for everyone he came into contact with. He will be greatly missed by the Blessed John 23rd community, and all those who loved him. Our prayers are with Belle and family. God Bless!

Doug and Cheryl Beavers

Cheryl Beavers - April 02, 2014 at 03:22 PM



“ Chrissy lit a candle in memory of Deacon Leonard Benzel



Chrissy - April 02, 2014 at 12:18 PM



“ Frances and Robert Cheatam Now you will not be in no more pain and you leave Bell and your family will be looking down from heaven and you are with the Angles and God now. And you are very happy that you did God work and you will be miss from all your friend and family at the church you work at like St Joseph and John XXIII and we keep you in are prayers.

Frances - April 03, 2014 at 04:14 AM



“ My condolences to the Benzel family. I was blessed to get to know Deacon Leonard over the past couple of years while helping him with building projects at J23. I will miss him.

Peter J. Dunphy - April 03, 2014 at 09:24 AM



“ Dear Belle and family, I am so sorry to hear of Leonard's passing. He will be greatly missed. May his memories bring you comfort, as well as the knowledge that he is rejoicing in the presence of Jesus, and those who have gone before him.

Love and hugs, Chris and Ed Fast

Chris Fast - April 03, 2014 at 10:58 AM



“ Dear Belle,
What a wonderful, caring man who will be greatly missed.

Bob Cushatt

Bob Cushatt - April 03, 2014 at 12:44 PM



“ Judy and all of the Benzel family...our thoughts and prayers are with all of you at this time.
Dave & Kathy Martin

Dave & Kathy Martin - April 03, 2014 at 07:20 PM