



## **James L. Deacon Jim Bonura, Sr.**

August 12, 1927 - August 25, 2008

On Monday, August 25, 2008, the Lord called his good and faithful servant, James Lawrence Bonura, Sr. Deacon Jim home. He was born August 12, 1927 Houston, Texas to Ignacio and Rosalie MaryAyo Bonura.

Deacon Jim served for 37 years in numerous capacities to the Diocese of Galveston- Houston. His ministries included music, Catholic girl scouts, adult faith formation, marriage preparation, youth ministries, the Renew program, Newman and prison ministries. Deacon Jim was a member of the Knights of Columbus. He also served in the United States Air Force. At the time of his passing, Deacon Jim was assigned to Holy Rosary Catholic Church in Rosenberg.

Deacon Jim is survived by his loving wife of 63 years, Velma Schiller Bonura; his thirteen loving children, Marie McBride and husband, Tom, Celeste Bryant and husband, Russell, Dorothy Everett and husband, John, James L. Bonura, Jr. and wife, Anne, Vivian Feland and husband, Mike, Thomas Bonura, Sr. and wife, Jennifer, Vincent Bonura, Sr., Dolores Koeing and husband, Bruce, Robert Bonura, Sr. and wife, Victoria, John Bonura, Sr. and wife, Martha, Velma Smith, Yvonne Fisher and husband, Russell, Paule Anne Lewis and husband, Richard; twenty-eight grandchildren; twenty-nine great-grandchildren, two great-great- grandchildren; other relatives and many friends.

Pallbearers will be James L Bonura, Jr., Thomas J. Bonura, Sr., Vincent E. Bonura, Sr., Robert J. Bonura, Sr., John H. Bonura, Sr., and Russell Bryant.

Visitation will be held from 5:30 P.M. until 8:00 P.M., Thursday, August 28, 2008 at Holy Rosary Catholic Church in Rosenberg with a rosary being recited at 7:00 P.M.

Funeral Mass will be held at 10:00 A.M., Friday, August 29, 2008 at the Sacred Heart Co Cathedral, 1111 St. Joseph Parkway, Houston, TX 77002. Interment will follow at Forest Park Lawndale Cemetery, 6900 Lawndale St, Houston, TX 77023.

Words of condolence may be left for the Bonura family at [www.davisgreenlawnfh.com](http://www.davisgreenlawnfh.com)

For those wishing, memorial donations may be made in Deacon Jim's name to Holy Rosary Catholic Church, 1416 George St., Rosenberg, TX 77471.

Deacon Jim was a loving and kind husband and father and we are all going to miss our Daddy. Our lives were enriched by his love.

# Tribute Wall

KA

“ Deacon Jim,

*I miss you so much.  
Church wont be the same.  
I love you.  
May God bless your soul!*

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**Kayla** - October 12, 2008 at 12:00 AM

AP

“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with you. May God continue to bless your family.*

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**Alda & Ollie Pool** - September 04, 2008 at 12:00 AM

MJ

“ *One of the reasons I decided to move and become a registered member of Holy Rosary Catholic Church is because of Mr. James Bonura, Sr. I loved when he spoke at church, his voice sounded damn near as someone from upstairs or Mr. MOSES himself. His deep voice sounded awesome and just would get your attention on those Sunday morning homilies. May the GREAT LORD Bless his soul. We will dearly miss you, Deacon Jim.....La Familia Rolando Flores Jr*

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**Mr & Mrs Rolando Flores Jr** - August 29, 2008 at 12:00 AM

PP

“ I work at Davis Greenlawn and had the pleasure of meeting your husband/father. He always took time to speak with the families before the rosaries when we worked together. It was such a joy meeting some of the children last night. I have never seen such a generous, kind, loving spirit that lives within your family. What a great legacy your father leaves, I saw his smile and loving ways evident among you as you warmly greeted the visitors. I thank you for the privilege of getting to know you and your father.

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**Penni Pausewang** - August 29, 2008 at 12:00 AM

TB

“ We are parishioners at Holy Rosary Catholic Church and we enjoyed Deacon Jim's sermons. He was a great speaker and always had a great message. He always had a smile on his face. He always shook the hands of children as he walked out of church. We will miss him greatly!

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**Troy and Julaine Blanchard** - August 29, 2008 at 12:00 AM

JP

“ Dear Velma and family: It was with great sadness that we read of Jim's sudden death. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him. We know by faith that he is in a better place. God Bless you and your family.  
Deacon John and Blanche Pistone

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**John S. Pistone** - August 29, 2008 at 12:00 AM

TG

“ Dear Velma Smith and family:

*My deepest sympathy on the loss of your father. He was a very nice man and I remember when he worked in the chaplain's office at UTMB.*

*May God Bless You All,  
Tina Gonzales*

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**Tina Gonzales** - August 28, 2008 at 12:00 AM

MT

“ *Tess Special Memories:*

*"Jammy feet" at Holy Name Choir, Lady B, Ginger and Artis B.  
Seeing dad in his stage make up especially "Student Prince", this  
was my dad and Oh! how handsome he is.*

*The many weddings he sang at, the many Christmas Specials, the  
MANY TIMES we, dad and many family members, did THE SEVEN  
LAST WORDS with St. Theresa, St. Cecelia and St Jerome Choirs,  
always with dad's Fantastic Solos.*

*My wedding, the weddings of sisters and brothers. Baptisms of to-  
be sisters-in-law, grandchildren and great grandchildren.*

*His sense of humor. Always willing to offer advice. Unfortunately, he  
told me what I should do instead of what I wanted to hear.*

*I LOVE MY DADDY.*

*Tom's Special Memories:*

*His sense of humor. Who am I going to tell religious jokes,  
especially, Catholic jokes to? Who am I going to buy electronic toys  
for ... especially like Digger the Dog and the electric snake that Eva  
can't stand to look at even now.*

*I LOVED JIM*

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**Marie Therese Bonura McBride and Tom - August 28, 2008 at 12:00 AM**

KT

“ My Uncle Jimmy- How can I put into words what a wonderful person he was. Always a smile, a cute little joke, happy, encouraging, giving, wise. He & Nan came to my rescue last year when my mom went to be with the Lord. I was so overwhelmed with all that had to do be done & he gently & lovingly helped it all come together for us. Thank you, Uncle Jimmy. I wish I could have been with you & Nan more. Save me a place close to your new mansion. I love you & Nan so much. Karen

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**Karen A. Todd** - August 28, 2008 at 12:00 AM

MW

“ May the good Lord have mercy on your soul, my friend. I always liked you, you were kind and fun loving.

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**Michael Weber** - August 27, 2008 at 12:00 AM

RR

“ We are parishoners of Sacred Heart but frequently attended Holy Rosary church. We always enjoyed Deacon Jim's sermons. They were always powerful! He will truly be missed. May God be with the family during this difficult time.

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**Randy & Carolyn Riedel** - August 27, 2008 at 12:00 AM

BP

“ We were shocked and deeply sorrowed to read of Deacon Jims passing. Jim touched thousand's of lives in such a special way. We miss you and Velma at Queen of Peace. Jim's beautiful voice will be at home in the heavenly choir.

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**Bob & Sandy Paul** - August 27, 2008 at 12:00 AM

KA

“ *May God comfort your family in this most difficult time.*

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**Karen Main Anderson** - August 27, 2008 at 12:00 AM

SS

“ *I remember your family from Holy Name Church days, especially Celeste. Please accept my deepest sympathy for your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.*

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**Susan Perrin Salvaggio** - August 27, 2008 at 12:00 AM

ML

“ *As secretary at UTMB pastoral care office, I enjoyed working with Deacon Jim while he was at the Galveston Newman Center. The campus ministers and UTMB chaplains would meet together once a month and I remember him as a gracious minister who was a joy to work with.*

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**Marjorie Luppens** - August 27, 2008 at 12:00 AM

MS

“ *Deacon Jim and I played guitar for the Newman Center in the basement of the Bishop's Place in the late 1980's. He occasionally called me over the years for a piece of music... I remember him as devoted to our Lord and dedicated to his wife. "Well done, good and faithful servant" is indeed a fitting tribute to him. My prayers go with Jim's family; he is in a happy place.*

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**Margarita Garcia Sims** - August 27, 2008 at 12:00 AM

VW

“ Vincent, may God wrap his loving arms around you and your family. My prayers go out to you during this very difficult time. God bless and keep you.

Your ex neighbor  
Virginia

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**Virginia Williams** - August 27, 2008 at 12:00 AM

DR

“ I decided to become a member of Holly Rosary Catholic Church because of Deacon Jim. I got to know him when he taught my RCIA class and that's when I learned what a wonderful, loving and very intelligent man he was and he will always be in my heart and my prayers. Deacon Jim, I will be forever grateful for all the knowledge you shared with me, respect you showed me and guidance you gave to me. Thank you!

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**Debra Riner-Fish** - August 27, 2008 at 12:00 AM

MB

“ You guys were my family when I felt I didn't have one, I will always love you guys for that. My thoughts and prayers are with all of you.

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**MICHELLE CANNON BIGGS** - August 26, 2008 at 12:00 AM

JC

“ Dear cousin Jimmy may God embrace you for eternity. Thank you for your beautiful singing at our wedding on June 7, 1964. We love you! Jackie & Wiley

May God bless and watch over your wonderful family. Our prayers are with each and every one of them.

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**Jackie & Wiley Chapman** - August 25, 2008 at 12:00 AM