



Joseph W. Cleary

April 11, 1924 - January 18, 2013

Joseph W. Cleary, 88, Bismarck, died January 18, 2013, at St. Vincent Care Center, Bismarck. Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 1:00 pm Monday, January 21, at Cathedral of the Holy Spirit, 519 Raymond St, Bismarck, with Rev. Msgr. Thomas Richter officiating. Burial will be in St. Mary's Cemetery, Bismarck. Visitation will be held 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm Sunday, January 20, at Cathedral of the Holy Spirit, with a 7:00 pm Knights of Columbus Rosary followed by a vigil. Visitation will continue one hour prior to the service at the church. Joseph Wolter Cleary was born April 11, 1924, at Escanaba, MI, to Gerald Joseph and Regina Wolter Cleary. He was raised and received his early education in Escanaba, graduating from high school in 1942. He enrolled in the Civilian Conservation Corps in 1941. He was drafted into the United States Army in January 1943. Joe served in World War II from 1943 until September 1945, and in the Korean War from June 1951 until June 1953. Joe graduated from Louisiana State University School of Medicine in 1949, with an MD degree. He was a member of the academic medical society, Alpha Omega Alpha. Joe began his OB/GYN residency in Shreveport, LA, and finished at Milwaukee, WI. Joe married Audrey Boucher on June 19, 1954, at Menominee, MI. They moved to Bismarck in 1955, where he was employed with the Missouri Valley Clinic from 1955 to 1971, and with the Quain and Ramstad Clinic from 1971 to 1989. In May 1991, he became Medical Consultant for the ND Medicaid Program. He served as the OB/GYN vice-chairman of the UND School of Medicine. Joe retired on June 30, 1999. Joe

was a member of Cathedral of the Holy Spirit, Knights of Columbus, American Legion, AMA, N.D. OB/GYN Society, N.D. State Medical Association, American College of OB/GYN, American Association Pro-Life OB/GYN, and was a CCC Alumni. Joe also served on the YMCA Board of Trustees, the North Dakota State Board of Medical Examiners and St. Mary Central High School Board. He enjoyed running, swimming, biking, and reading. He was recognized as the first long distance runner in Bismarck. In his lifetime, he completed 49 marathons. Joe was an ethical man who maintained high standards of morality. His strong religious belief was demonstrated by the priority he placed on his duties to church, and he was deeply devoted to Audrey, his children, and his grandchildren. Joe is survived by his wife, Audrey, Bismarck; his eight sons and daughters-in-law, Patrick and Carolyn Cleary, Tucson, AZ, Paul Cleary and Julie Michels, Fridley, MN, Bill and Jane Cleary, Bismarck, Philip and Debra Cleary, Eagan, MN, Richard and Kristin Cleary, Bismarck, ND, David Cleary and Patricia Tuggle, Glen Mills, PA, Peter and Kimberly Cleary, Inver Grove Heights, MN, and Stephen Cleary and Liz Howell, Anchorage, AK; his three daughters and sons-in-law, Susan and Paul Knoll, Fargo, Barbara and Chuck Nickolay, New Prague, MN, and Mary and Dan Quinlin, Algona, IA; his 32 grandchildren, and two brothers and three sisters-in-law. Joe was preceded in death by his mother and father; brother, Warren Cleary; and infant grandchildren. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be given to St. Mary's Central High School, YMCA, the North Dakota Lung Association, or Cathedral Grade School. In honor of Joe's passion for running, there will be a memorial run at 9:00 am Monday, January 21, meet at the YMCA west parking lot.

Tribute Wall

BH

“ Just read of Dr. Joe's passing. He was most instrumental in getting me started as a runner, and I enjoyed knowing his family during my years in Bismarck. Kind thoughts to the entire family.

Brooks Hatch - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

GG

“ Audrey..my deep sympathy to you and your family. Dr. Joe was Best Man for your brother- in- law Tom's wedding to my 1st cousin Barbara's wedding MANY years ago. You were" home" as you had given birth to one of the children. I have enjoyed seeing you the last couple of years here in Orange Beach Alnot last year., while you were with Tom and Barb and will miss you this year. Maybe our paths will meet again here or in Escanaba Michigan. Take care of yourself. God Bless you

Gayle and Roman Gill - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

SF

“ Dear Clearys all our prayers and thoughts are with you. Sincerely- Sheryl and Carson Fleck PS I was at mass at St Anthony of Padua when I heard the news. Sheryl

Sheryl A Fleck - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

AM

“ Dr. Cleary, Audrey and the Cleary children have always been synonymous with integrity, service, compassion and, most of all, faith. Bismarck was always impacted by the Clearys. Now the entire world experiences the continued legacy. Thank you, Clearys. My love and prayers. Annetta Sutton, Minneapolis, Mn

Annetta Sutton Minneapolis, Mn - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

TM

“ I can remember doing an assignment in first grade at Cathedral School. We had to write about our birth including the name of the doctor who delivered us. I think nearly every one of my classmates was delivered by Dr. Cleary! Thank you!

Tim Martin - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

RW

“ Dr. Cleary was a patient, kind and caring neighbor that I highly respected.

Russ Wald - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

LM

“ I didn't know Dr Cleary particularly well, but when I was growing up in Bismarck I knew some of his children. They were friends and role models to me. And I have no doubt because of my association with the Cleary family I ended up being a much better person than would have been otherwise. I just would like to convey my best wishes and kind thoughts to them all.

Lars Larson, Elk River, MN - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JV

“ Dr. Cleary - delivered my three children. he was professional from the word go. We had so much confidence in him. Great personality - related to his patients so well. So proud this man brought my children into the world.

Jim Cornell, The Villages, Fla - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DA

“ Dr. Joe was a man of great spirit and integrity. He motivated anyone that he made contact with to understand that effort turns hope from wishing into making. Peaceful Thoughts are with a wonderful family.

darrell andersom - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JC

“ While I don't know Dr. Joseph Cleary personally, I do know one of his children, Pete, and am quite convinced he was an amazing man, based on the life of my experience with Pete. Blessings to you all as you remember and grieve.

Jodi Forsberg Carter - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

FB

“ Dear Clearys~ There are too many of you to communicate with individually, so I'm glad I can do so here. This world and my life are both so much richer and happier for what he gave us. If the measure of a good life is decency and integrity and goodness, then he gets an 'A-plus' You are all in my thoughts and prayers today.mb

fr. Mike Byron - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

KW

“ Audrey, Steve and family, Dr. Joe was a great man, influencing many people. We are sincerely sorry for your loss.

Keith and Julie Wilson - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DM

“ Dr, Cleary was a wonderful man & Dr. He delivered my son Quinn in 1977 when we lived in Bismarck. He always had time to answer your questions. Prayers to the.

Donna Wucetich, Billings Mt. - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

SO

“ I had the opportunity to grow up with the Cleary family. He was a deeply devoted dad, doctor, and Catholic gentleman. Peace and prayers to all the family.

Sister Kathleen Atkinson, osb - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CT

“ Audrey & Family, Having taught all of his children, we can attest to the fact that Joe was a top-notch guy, for he was instrumental in helping Audrey raise a bunch of wonderful kids! Our thoughts and prayers are with you. Connie and JohnTschider and Family

Connie Tschider - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

WH

“ To the Cleary family, Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time. Wayne Harris and family

Wayne Harris - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

PI

“ Dear Woz and Phil, So sorry to hear this. Thoughts are with you. What a wonderful patriarch to you and your entire family. With Love, Patty and Rich

Patty Ivory - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

NG

“ Bill, Jane, Audrey & Family, I am so sorry to hear about Joe. My deepest sympathy goes out to you. I have many memories of Joe when I nannied for Bill & Jane. You are in my prayers. Norma Geiger

Norma Geiger - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

LJ

“ AUDREY AND FAMILY MY DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO YOU AND YOUR FAMILY. JOE WAS A VERY WONDERFUL PERSON. WHEN MY HUSBAND DIED I WAS GIVEN THIS LITTLE SAYING AND I WANT TO PASS IT ON TO YOU. DEATH LEAVES A HEARTACHE NO ONE CAN HEAL. LOVE LEAVES A MEMORY NO ONE CAN STEAL. Lyla JOYCE

LYLA JOYCE - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

RS

“ Audrey and Cleary Family, Sorry that I was unable to participate in the memorial run this morning. I will have a Gatorade and toast a truly "gentle " man! He was a huge inspiration to so many folks around the area. Always had words of encouragement for everyone. Our prayers are with your family. Rockie and Julie Stavn

Rockie Stavn - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CB

“ Our sincere sympathy to the Cleary family. I worked at Missouri Valley Clinic many years ago and was so impressed with his dedication to his patients and kindness to the staff.

Carol & Don Bieber - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

SM

“ Bill and family...I'll never forget the first time I "scrubbed" with Dr. Cleary; I was very new to the scrubbing role, he took my hand and put it on the retractor and said "Now, don't move and don't look away, because when you move, the retractor moves, and when the retractor moves, I can't see anything..." it was a lesson I never forgot! Bill, I knew you would understand this note! Always remember the joy...Sandy Berreth

Sandy Berreth, Nisswa, MN - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

AV

“ Dear Cleary family, My thoughts and prayers go out to you during your time of loss. Dr. Cleary was a wonderful man and will be greatly missed. Ann Vadnie

Ann Vadnie - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

PH

“ The old neighborhood is getting smaller..A nice man and a nicer family.Condolences to the Cleary family.

Phil Huseby - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

LC

“ Joe was an inspiration to many people. He got young and old into running and it continues stronger than ever today. We were honored to have him as our doctor for the birth of our son David. Conna and my thoughts are with you all.

Larry Cook - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DA

“ Dear Audrey and family, please know of our continuing prayers for you prayers for you.May God's healing presence fill these difficult days. -- Darrel & Debbie Aleson

darrel aleson - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

KJ

“ Audrey and Family, my thoughts and prayers are with all of you. You loving husband and father ison to the last great adventure...he is running to his soul's content! The lord be with you \= as always, Kathleen Joyce

Kathleen Joyce - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CB

“ My sympathy for your loss. I remember seeing the Cleary family at the Cathedral church on Sunday's. My Mom and Dad had such great respect for Dr. Cleary. His passing brings back many fond memories of life in Bismarck, ND. I attended Cathedral School with Susan.

Charlene Zahn Busch - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

RK

“ Thoughts and prayers are with you Audrey and family. I often reflect on times Dr. Cleary lead us kids in reciting the rosary in back of your station wagon on our way to Hillside Pool for family swim. Treasure your memories!

Roger & Gloria Kautzman - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

MB

“ Audrey and family, our deepest condolences for your loss. Dr. Cleary was a wonderful man and a dedicated doctor. I was privileged to have him as my doctor. God Bless you all.

Mary and LaRoy Baird - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

SS

“ Joe was an inspiration for many reasons, including encouraging a healthy, running life for young and old. I was one of those runner who gathered at his home occasionally to talk over running and life. Thanks, Joe, you will always be remembered. My condolences to Audrey and his family.

Stan Stelter - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JC

“ *Darla & I express our condonence to the Cleary family in the lost of special person Joe. Jim & Darla Hauer*

Joseph W. Cleary - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM