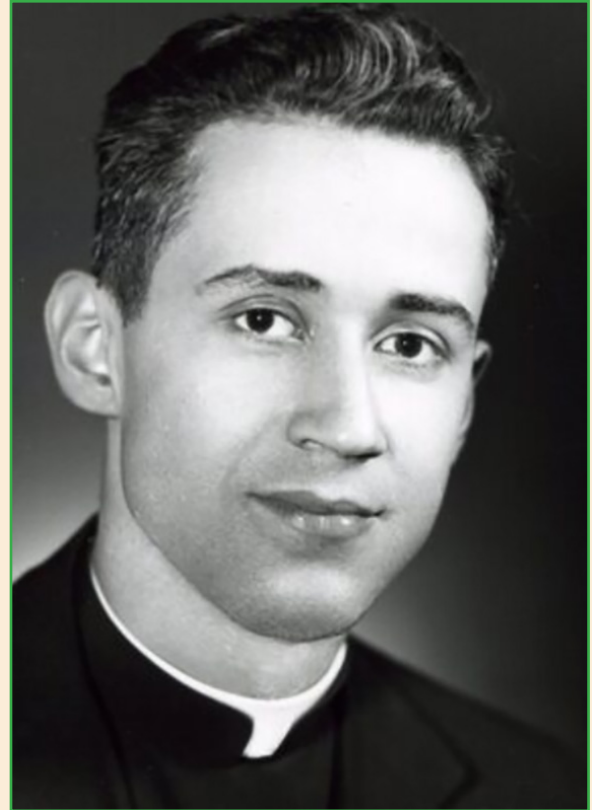
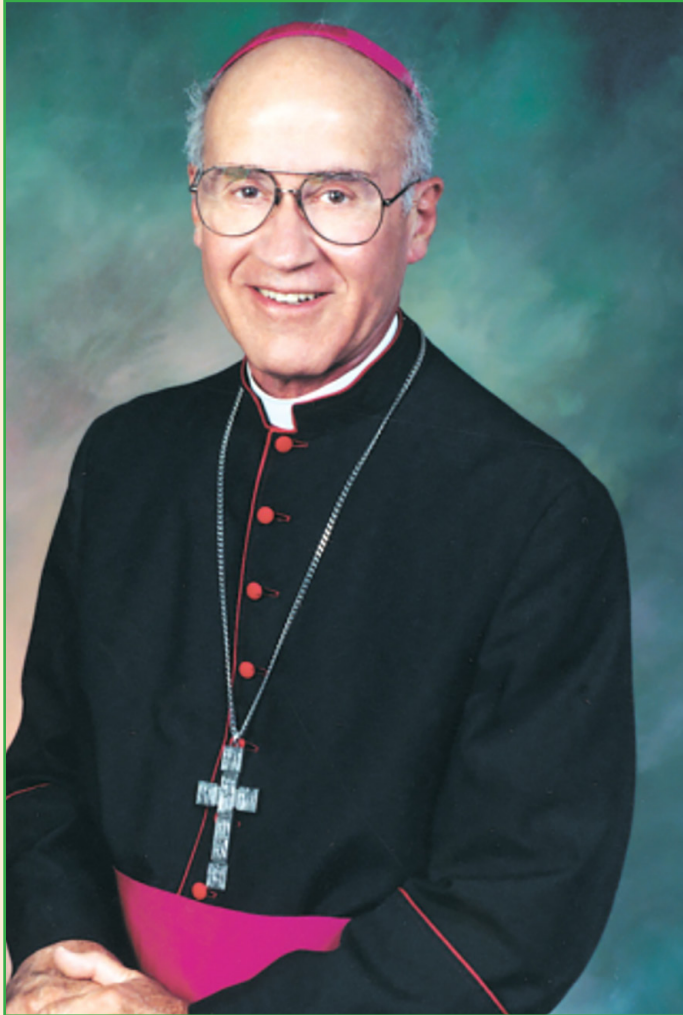




# FRIENDS

THE MISSIONARY SOCIETY OF ST. JAMES THE APOSTLE

October 2023



## Love, Joy, Peace...

*Dear Friends,*

Bishop Victor Benito Galeone, Bishop Emeritus of St. Augustine, FL, and Society of St. James alumnus, died at St. Martin's Home for the Aged in Catonsville, MD on May 29, 2023. He was 87. Bishop Galeone was born into a close-knit Italian family in Philadelphia on Sept. 13, 1935, and his family moved to Baltimore in 1941. He was educated at St. Charles College in Catonsville, MD; St. Mary's Seminary; University of Baltimore; and the Pontifical North American College and the Gregorian University, Rome. Victor Galeone was ordained on Dec. 18, 1960, in Rome. After ordination, Fr. Galeone served in several Baltimore parishes and taught at St. Paul's

*Diocesan priests serving the poorest of the poor in Latin America since 1958.*



Latin High School, Baltimore, during the 1960s. He then joined The Missionary Society of St. James the Apostle and served twice in Peru with the Society during the 1970s and early 1980s. Reflecting on his experience in Peru, Bishop Galeone commented, in a 2010 interview, “I had it in my blood. It was a beautiful experience. They were very poor. The experience with the Latin culture made me much more patient. I learned not to get all uptight. You see life from a different perspective.”<sup>1</sup> Monsignor Farmer, administrator at Immaculate Conception in Towson, MD, commented on Victor’s passion as a missionary - “He loved his mission work; he loved helping the poor.”<sup>2</sup>

These comments resonate with those Society of St. James alumni, who knew Victor Galeone, from Peru. Fr. Desmond Tynan, who worked in a neighboring parish in the mountains of Peru, reflected on his years working with Victor, “He was a very friendly guy who did a lot of work in his parish of San Pedro, Andahuaylas. His church was an historical colonial church built by the Spaniards that was falling down. He wrote to the National Institute of Culture for help and approvals; they never responded. So, Vic just went ahead and got the roof and buttresses and whole church repaired.’ Another St. James alumnus, Fr. Jack Davis, recalled how welcoming and accommodating Fr. Galeone was to him, when Galeone was based in Florida. Fr. Jack commented, “In 1989, Victor allowed our Chimbote Choir to sing at his cathedral in St. Augustine, Florida, when we came up from Peru to the USA for my 49th birthday celebration”. Another Society priest, Fr. Joe McCarthy, commented that “Victor was just a fine, easygoing guy.”



*Fr. Galeone in Peru*

George Weigel, syndicated writer and distinguished senior fellow & William E. Simon Chair in Catholic Studies of the Ethics and Public Policy Center, Washington D.C., reflected on his years at St. Paul’s High school, as a pupil of Bishop Galeone. Weigel captures the energy and enthusiasm of a young Galeone: “On first encountering Fr. Victor B. Galeone at Baltimore’s St. Paul Latin High School in September 1965, my freshman classmates and I didn’t imagine we

were meeting the future bishop of St. Augustine, Florida. What everyone quickly recognized, however, was that he was a language teacher unlike any we had met before. For Fr. Galeone—rail-thin with crinkly black hair, dressed in an immaculate cassock and full of energy and cheer as he bounced around the Latin I classroom—believed that we should learn Latin the way we had first learned English: by speaking it. So, from the git-go, we followed this pied piper of Latinity in a series of verbal exercises, built around four

1 Cravy, Beth Reese, “Bishop Victor Galeone Led Diocese of St. Augustine’s through 9-11 decade; dies at 88”, The Florida-Times Union, Jacksonville, FL, June 1, 2023, [www.jacksonville.com](http://www.jacksonville.com)

2 Harlow, Lisa, “Bishop Victor Galeone, former Archdiocese of Baltimore priest and Bishop of St. Augustine’s, dies at 87”, The Catholic Review, Baltimore, MD, June 1, 2023, [www.catholicreview.org](http://www.catholicreview.org)

paradigmatic sentences, that got us accustomed to a highly inflected language in which word endings meant everything and word order meant virtually nothing. When we had the basic noun declensions and verb conjugations under a degree of control, Fr. Galeone fed us a series of ditties to facilitate our memorizing other basics of Latin grammar. These days, I sometimes can't remember what I thought to do a minute ago (my brother the physician tells me that the clinical name for this is "Benign Senescent Forgetfulness," which is only mildly reassuring). But to this minute, and without the slightest hesitation, I can rattle off his "Put the ablative with de/cum and sine, ab and e(x)/ coram, tenus, pro, and prae/sub and in go either way." That our teacher would lead us in these chants with an enthusiasm bordering on glee, his voice rising at the end of a rather silly mnemonic that nonetheless got the grammatical point into our adolescent skulls, made learning elementary Latin more a pleasure than a chore. Looking back on those innocent days from the retrospective of more than half a century, one other characteristic of Fr. Galeone remains firmly in my memory: the extraordinary reverence with which he celebrated Mass—a first indicator, perhaps, that we were dealing not only with a gifted linguist and language teacher but with a saintly man on fire with love of the Lord Jesus. Fr. Galeone wanted to share that love with others, so when our high school closed in 1969, he did two five-year stints in the Peruvian missions. He was already fluent in Spanish, but he mastered at least one native language and evangelized the poorest of the poor in circumstances full of danger, as Peru in those days was being torn apart by the Maoist maniacs of the Sendero Luminoso (Shining Path). That decade of missionary service was of a pattern with his pastoral approach to every situation in which he found himself: Find the poorest, or neediest, or most hurting people and serve them first. Thus, when he was named bishop of St. Augustine in 2001, Victor Galeone spent hours ministering to death row inmates, a practice he continued in South Carolina when, after his retirement as a diocesan bishop, he lived with the Trappist monks of Mepkin Abbey...Brilliance and humility met in Victor Galeone and were fused by hours of daily prayer that left calluses on his knees. It was a privilege to call him teacher and friend. It is reassuring to have him now as an intercessor at the Throne of Grace, where there is no cognitive disarray and (as St. Paul taught in 1 Corinthians 13:12) he knows even as he is known."<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup> Weigel, George, "Latinity and Sanctity: Remembering Bishop Victor Galeone", First Things, June 21, 2023, [www.firstthings.com](http://www.firstthings.com)



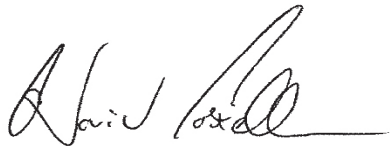
We in the St. James Society are grateful for the ministry of Victor Galeone, both as a Bishop and a Priest, and we are grateful for his time spent among us as a missionary. Bishop Victor always maintained contact with the St. James Society, and he was an avid reader of our 'Friends' newsletter. Over the years I regularly received a note of encouragement from Bishop Victor commenting on the latest news from Peru. There is no doubt, he was a true shepherd with a heart dedicated to the service of the poor and he lived his vocation in the spirit of the words he chose as his episcopal motto: 'Love, Joy, Peace'. As we remember Bishop Victor and the example of his life, we pray that the Lord of the Harvest will continue to send laborers to continue the mission of the St. James Society.



*You are heartily invited to the*  
**St. James Society Golf Tournament**  
 being held at the  
**Windham Country Club - Windham, NH**

**Wednesday - October 11, 2023**  
**10:15 AM Shotgun Start**  
**Call Blessed Trinity Parish @ 978-320-4220 for details**

*With Every Good Wish in Christ,*



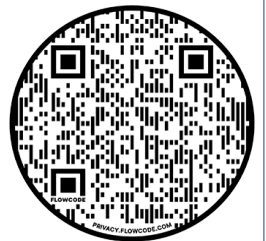
*Rev. David Costello, Director*



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