



## Russell Edward Smith

March 22, 1954 - March 5, 2024

On March 5th, 2024, the Reverend Russell Edward Smith entered into his final rest. Rusty, as he was called by everyone, was born to Frank Ernest Smith and Mildred Blanche Sweeny Smith on March 22, 1954, in the old Bell Hospital, Williamsburg, Virginia.

In his earliest days he attended Matthew Whaley Elementary School and then continued his upper-level grade schooling at Walsingham Academy, (Sisters of Mercy of Merion,) for the period of grades 7 through 12. In preparation for the Priesthood, he attended Duns Scotus College, Southfield Michigan. Upon completion of his studies at Duns Scotus, he continued his education with Catholic University, Washington D.C. to be awarded a Master of Divinity, (STM.)

Having finished his studies at Catholic University, he took his interests further to Rome with the completion of a Doctorate in Sacred Theology (S.T.D.) with Pontificia Universitas Lateranensis. Academia Alfonsiana, Rome. Returning from Rome Rusty did some time with the Catholic Diocese of Richmond then took a post with the Archdiocese of Boston as Moral Theologian. He then went back to Richmond, and then to Saint Louis functioning each time in the same capacity until he finally returned to The Diocese of Richmond as both Moral Theologian and Parish Priest. He functioned as Moral Theologian to the Virginia Commonwealth University's Health Care System.

He is survived by a number of cousins in the greater Williamsburg area. He retired early because of medical reasons and maintained his residence in Toano, Virginia.

# Cemetery Details

## Cedar Grove Cemetery

809 South Henry Street  
Williamsburg, VA 23185

# Previous Events

## Funeral Mass

APR **12**. 12:00 PM (ET)

The National Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham  
520 Richmond Rd  
Williamsburg, VA 23185

# Tribute Wall

SB

“ I have so many good memories with my Big Brother, traveling across country, to his home Toano , where I served mass with him , learning Latin , listening to his stores, drawn to his kindness, his Intellectual...so cool n calm ..loved his Gin , n loved being outdoors, just listening , eading, in his Rocking chair..I know my Big Brother is in Heaven, no doubt about it. I know he loves me . He baptized me , he made me his Squire ,to Knights of Holy Sepulcre, Equestrian Order, I recall swearing my Oathe n signing my Oath , he filed away somewhere. Sometimes we would go to College Beach , WnM college...n i would try to catch fish n he would sit n people watch ...He n I went to Wash DC he showed me Catholic University, the St. Francis monostary..ne applied for a job ..or wanted to apply for a position with BBC NEWS. I remember, so many good , never a bad time ever n his mom was the best , cook that southern food like never had . I miss my Big Brother . I can just talk to him now n know he hears me.

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**Shaun Dismas David Brown** - October 05, 2025 at 11:19 AM

SB

*I remember he gave me a medal that ge received from Mother Teresa , St. Mother Teresa, n i lost it ..I felt so bad ... he was the most giving man I ever knew .*

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**Shaun Dismas David Brown** - October 05, 2025 at 11:24 AM

ME

*Fr. Smith was my pastor at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Quinton, VA. I often saw him walking around the church with rosary in hand.*

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**Maryalyce Evans** - January 25 at 08:22 PM

ME

*He had a kind voice. His homilies we fantastic his stories always match the gospel. He had away of reaching people one on one. May perpetual light shine upon him.*

**Maryalyce Evans** - January 25 at 08:24 PM

RL

“ *You were one of the very exceptional members of the WA Class of '72. You are so dearly missed. Please keep watch over us down here. RIP dear Rusty.*

**rob Lorigan** - April 10, 2024 at 11:03 AM

CL

“ *Fr. Smith was a priest truly after the heart of Christ. May his soul rest in peace.*

**Carol Long** - April 02, 2024 at 04:19 PM

LM

“ *Greatest Priest I ever knew*

**Larry Maier** - March 24, 2024 at 02:06 PM