



Reverend Father Henry Lawrence Dorsch

September 21, 1941 - February 18, 2026

Reverend Father Henry Lawrence Dorsch, 84, of Hatfield, entered into eternal rest on Wednesday February 18, 2026, surrounded by the prayers of his loving family. A devoted servant to God, Father Dorsch's life was a testament to faith, humbleness, and unwavering love for all he knew.

He was born September 21, 1941, in New York, NY, to the late Lawrence and Maria (Fischer) Dorsch.

He completed his education at Hatfield Schools and graduated from Smith Academy in 1959. He subsequently attended the University of Massachusetts Amherst from 1959 to 1961, followed by studies at the School of Saint Philip Neri in Boston from 1961 to 1962. From 1962 to 1968, he pursued seminary training at Saint John Seminary in Brighton.

He was ordained to the priesthood for the Diocese of Springfield, Massachusetts, on May 11, 1968, by Bishop Christopher Weldon at St. Mary's Church in Northampton.

Father Dorsch held several pastoral roles throughout his career, including pro-tem pastor appointments at St. Brigid's in Amherst, Notre Dame in Easthampton, and St. Mary's in Northampton. His assignments encompassed part-time teaching at St. Michael's High School, instructing Religious Studies at Cathedral High School, and serving as Director of the Northampton Christian Life Center. From 1984 to 1986, he served as Pastor of Our Lady of Annunciation in Florence. In 1994, he was appointed pastor at St. Mark's in Pittsfield, and from 2003 until his retirement on June 30, 2019, he was Pastor

at Our Lady of the Lake in Southwick.

Father Dorsch's commitment to nurturing young people was evident through his involvement with the Board of Youth Ministry. He played a pivotal role in organizing numerous Teen Encounter Christ Retreats, offering guidance and support to countless youths. Many who attended these retreats continue to remember Father Dorsch for his generosity and the lasting impact of his encouragement and help throughout their formative years.

He had diverse hobbies and interests, such as visiting relatives in Germany and engaging with parishioners in Southwick during the annual October Festival, where he performed accordion music. He also valued outdoor activities and natural landscapes. Additionally, he was a dedicated supporter of New England sports. He showed great generosity toward others, yet his family was the ones he valued and cared for above all else.

He is survived by his sister, Mathilda "Millie" Brooks of Huntington, his niece, Linda Lastowski, his nephews, Michael and Christopher Brooks, and David Tatro, also several great nieces and nephews.

Besides his parents, he was predeceased by his niece Marie LaPlante, and nephew Peter Brooks.

A Liturgy of Christian Burial will be celebrated Friday, February 27, 2026, at 11 AM in St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, 99 King St., Northampton. Calling Hours will be in the church prior from 9AM till the time of the Mass. Burial will immediately follow in St. Mary's Cemetery, Northampton.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Father Dorsch's name to: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, 99 King St., Northampton, MA 01060.

For further information or to submit a condolence message to the family, kindly visit Drozdalfuneralhome.com.

Previous Events

Calling Hours

FEB 27. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish
99 King St.
Northampton, MA 01060

Liturgy

FEB 27. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish
99 King St.
Northampton, MA 01060

Tribute Wall

AL

“ *It's been a long time since I last lived in Massachusetts - over 10 years. It's been even longer since I had Father Henry for CCD. And yet despite all that time and distance, Father Henry still took time to chat with me - about life, faith, theology, learning. Father Henry was wise and kind and patient, and I'm immensely blessed to have known and learned from him.*

Alex Lafrance - February 26 at 06:24 PM

GR

“ *Fr. Henry Dorsch was instrumental in my faith growth through his young adult YAWEH ministry in the 80's. He served the Lord well, may he rejoice in Christ presence.*

Grace - February 26 at 10:08 AM

KJ

“ *I will always remember Father Henry as a guiding light in my life. During my teenage years, his kind words and quiet strength helped me find direction when I needed it most. He spoke with compassion and wisdom, reminding me that love—both for others and for myself—was the greatest gift we could share. Years later, when he stood beside me and joined me in marriage to my best friend, his message was the same: love endures, forgives, and uplifts. His presence blessed that moment and my life in countless ways. May he rest in eternal peace, surrounded by the love he so freely gave.*

Kris Wilson Jerz

Kristina Jerz - February 25 at 05:39 PM

JL

“ Fr. Henry was one of my first spiritual directors with Teen Encounter. I was blessed to have the privilege of his direction through the Leadership Team and shared many weekend retreats with him along with Fr. Philippe Roux. I distinctly recall Fr. Henry leading us in a peace filled meditation during the retreats, encouraging all to slow down and hear Gods voice. Throughout the years, I have been blessed to connect with Fr. Henry through calls, coffee and a variety of events with Catholic Charismatic Renewal. Through the mercy of our Lord, rest in peach dear friend. Always in my heart.



Joanne Lanzillo-Epaul - February 23 at 03:18 PM

HC

*I was blessed to be at Holy Mass past few Fridays where Fr Dorsch was celebrant and heard confessions afterwards
Last time Friday Feb 13 !
5 days before God took him to his eternal rest*

Hazel Cardozo - February 24 at 11:55 AM

TC

We extend our deepest sympathy to the family of Fr. Henry. We remember him as a young boy, then as a young man destined for the priesthood. Godspeed, Fr. Henry. May the Angels lead you to Paradise, may the Martyrs receive you and may we all rejoice with you in heaven one day.

Theresa Shea Clifford & Michael Clifford, Fairfax, VA

Theresa Clifford - February 25 at 02:28 PM

AP

“ *My prayers are with you and your family. He was truly loved by our family and my boys loved him when he was the chaplain for the Boy Scots in Florence, He will be greatly missed.*

Anne Picard - February 23 at 02:28 PM

JK

“ *Fr. Henry was a guiding force throughout our time spent in Teen Encounter. He was there to help officiate at our wedding and continued to provide spiritual guidance to the Kellogg family throughout many challenging times. He was a truly dedicated spiritual leader. He will be missed. May God's grace and mercy shine upon him, now that he has been called home.*
Sincerely,
Jennifer and Christopher Kellogg

Jennifer Kellogg - February 22 at 12:54 PM

RS

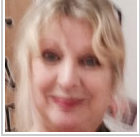
“ *Henry was a friend, neighbor and classmate of mine. He kept us busy every summer with our own recreation program. Wiffle ball, an almost real grocery store, games in the cabin and a View Master to see the world. I will miss his visits, I know he is in a better place.*

Roberta Zack Slysz - February 21 at 03:04 PM

MA

“ *When my mother (who was in a wheelchair) and I walked around the block father Jerry would stop and we always had an uplifting conversation. He was a sweetheart and loved Jesus. God bless*

Marie - February 21 at 11:41 AM



“ Henry lived next door growing up. Memories of hours spent in the little cabin down the hill, putting on plays, running from the geese, playing Clue for hours, his magnificent Wiffle Ball court will remain with me forever. RIP dear old friend. You were always so kind.

Connie Zack - February 21 at 10:31 AM

SK

“ Henry and I grew up together although he was a year ahead. We used to go to his grandmother's (Kuni Proulx) home all the time. We grew apart when i moved to North Carolina. He will be missed by all. He was more than a great priest.

Shirley Widelo Kimball - February 21 at 04:36 AM

CB

“ Fr Dorsch was an important part of our spiritual family. A loving, caring, Godly man. When we moved from Southwick to Florida Fr Dorsch visited us twice, blessed our home and brought joy into our lives. He will be missed. God bless our dear friend. Jim & Cheryl Bruno

Cheryl Bruno - February 20 at 08:08 PM

PS

“ Father Henry, we all miss you and will continue to pray for you. Thank you for your kind help. You married us and also baptized Margaret's granddaughters that lived with us since 2014 after their mother died.
God Bless You.

Paul and Margaret Seery - February 20 at 04:35 PM



“ *Fr Henry impacted so many youth through Teen encounter and during his time at Cathedral- youth would gather in his office to visit.his door was always open for everyone. A Life well lived. Sorry for his loss.*

Susanne Charland Jegelwicz - February 20 at 03:50 PM