



## Michael J. Sheridan

June 16, 1939 - May 27, 2021

Albany-Michael J. Sheridan, 81, entered Eternal Life Thursday, May 27, 2021 at Teresian House.

Michael devoted his life to helping others. He did big things like providing opportunities for young people to grow into productive adults and finding jobs for the unemployed or underemployed, to small things like driving elderly voters to the polls and shoveling neighbors' snow-filled sidewalks. But big or small, everything was done from the heart – out of a true concern for making another person's life better – that was Michael.

His concern for others was nurtured early as the oldest of four children of Michael and Alice McCarra Sheridan, who had emigrated from Ireland. Michael's unconditional support and love for his sisters, Sheila and Maureen, and his late brother Sean, never wavered. His love for his siblings grew to include their children John, Jessica and Peru.

Family was always paramount to Michael and over the years his family and love expanded. In 1979 he married Rosemary O'Neill and they adopted their daughter, Maria, from Venezuela in 1986. Michael was a full participant in Maria's childhood; they were always 'on the go' to movies, fairs, pony rides, trick-or-treating, just about anywhere that promised a fun time! In 2012 Maria and her husband, Dan, gifted Michael with his greatest joy, a grandson,

Donovan Michael. Grandfather and grandson shared their unbounded love eve after Michael's 2014 move to Teresian House ("Poppy's House"), where they played and shared Oreo cookies and juice.

Michael also exhibited his caring nature in his career choices. After graduating from Vincentian Institute in Albany, and Mount St. Mary Seminary in Maryland, he was ordained a priest for the Albany Roman Catholic Diocese in 1965. Michael was very proud of his nine years as a priest; he taught at Keveny Academy in Cohoes and gave fully of himself at parishes in Cohoes and Clifton Park. He then left the priesthood and was laicized by Pope Paul VI. Michael then went into government service and became active in Democratic politics in Albany.

Michael worked for the City of Albany for nearly 25 years, serving three mayors – Erastus Corning 2nd, Thomas Whalen and Gerald Jennings. First he administered the CETA Program (Comprehensive Employment & Training Act), placing hundreds of unemployed in regular paying jobs. Mayor Corning then tapped Michael to be the first Executive Director of the Albany City Youth Bureau. In this position, Michael developed and funded after-school programs for hundreds of Albany children and he ran the Summer Youth Employment Program for City teenagers. Michael also cultivated beneficial relationships between the City and numerous nonprofit agencies that provided youth programs, employment, and job training.

In addition to his pride in being a life-long Albanian, Michael was proud to be a Democrat and for having served as a Democratic Committeeman in Albany. He put in endless hours visiting his constituents, listening to their concerns, and then finding solutions. On election days, other poll workers were thrilled to see Michael as he was the only one able to unlock the voting machines and always provided lunch and dinner!

People who knew or worked with Michael have described him as: highly intelligent, great talker, incisively witty, fair minded, history and politics buff, thoroughbred racing enthusiast, kind to all. These traits made Michael a respected and beloved member of the Albany community.

Michael is survived by his wife, Rosemary; their daughter, Maria S. Bruce, her husband Daniel, and their son, Donovan; two sisters, Sheila Sheridan and Maureen Chiamonte, and her husband Joseph; one nephew, John Chiamonte; and two nieces, Jessica Chiamonte and Peru McCarra.

Relatives and friends are invited to visit with Michael's family Tuesday, June 1, 2021 10:00 am to 11:00 am at the Parish of Mater Christi, Albany, NY. His Funeral Mass will follow at 11:00 am. Please only enter the church from the parking lot doorway; masks and social distancing are required.

You can view the Mass at [YouTube.com/C.ParishofMaterChristi](https://www.youtube.com/C.ParishofMaterChristi)

The Rite of Committal will be held at St. Agnes Cemetery, Menands, NY immediately following the Funeral Mass. To leave a message for the family please visit [www.McveighFuneralHome.com](http://www.McveighFuneralHome.com)

Those wishing to remember Michael in a special way may send a contribution to Teresian House Foundation, 200 Washington Ave., Ext., Albany, NY 12203.

# Cemetery Details

## St. Agnes Cemetery

48 Cemetery Ave  
Menands, NY

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUN 1. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Parish of Mater Christi  
40 Hopewell Street (Rev. Kenneth J. Doyle Way)  
Albany, NY 12208

# Tribute Wall



“ *Michael J. Sheridan*

October 08, 2023 at 09:24 PM



“ *Dear Rosemary and Family:*

*Please accept my sincerest condolences on the passing of Mike. His life was a commitment to helping those less fortunate, and his actions truly defined by the gentleman he was. His deep faith will, hopefully, be a small solace of comfort during this most difficult time. May he rest in peace.*

*With thoughts and prayers,  
Bob Van Amburgh*

**Bob Van Amburgh** - June 02, 2021 at 01:09 PM



“ *Dear Rosemary and the Sheridan Family,*

*I was so sorry to hear about Michael's passing. He was a good friend and mentor to my brother John and me. We always knew we had Michael's sincere support when we worked for the City of Albany. Michael was a kind and thoughtful soul. Often times he'd give us a ride home from work regaling us with political stories while smoking a little cigar. The rides were never dull. When I moved to Texas to take a job with the City Michael would drop me a line occasionally. As a stranger in the big 'D' it meant so much to me. God rest his soul. It was an honor to have known Michael. He will always have a special place in my heart.*

**Patricia Marsolais** - June 01, 2021 at 12:16 AM

RB

“ *Dear Rosemary, dear friend, Please accept my deepest sympathy to you and your family on Michael's passing. I will always remember Michael cheering us on as we set out coffee and donuts at St. Catherine's on Sunday mornings! May God bless him, and your and your family and grant you the blessing of happy memories. Fondly,  
Rose Mary Bailly*

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**Rose Mary Bailly** - May 30, 2021 at 08:48 AM

RB

“ IT WAS MY HONOR AND PRIVILEGE TO HAVE KNOWN MIKE FOR OVER 40 YEARS. WE BOTH WORKED WITHIN THE CORNING, WHALEN AND JENNINGS CITY GOVERNMENTS. ADDITIONALLY WE PARTICIPATED TO THE FULLEST IN LOCAL DEMOCRATIC POLITIES. TOGETHER WE ATTENDED ALL THE PARTY FUNCTIONS INCLUDING THE ANNUAL DEMOCRATIC PICNIC AT THE ALTAMONT FAIR GROUNDS WHICH DREW THOUSANDS OF GOOD DEMOCRATIC VOTERS AND SUPPORTERS. MIKE KNEW ALL THE ASPECTS OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY AND WAS A GOOD TEACHER FOR ME AND MANY OTHERS IN OUR CHOSEN FIELD OF POLITICAL INVOLVEMENT. I ESPECIALLY LIKED MIKE BECAUSE HE WAS AN HONEST AND HARD WORKING SERVANT OF THE PEOPLE OF ALBANY REGARDLESS OF GENDER, RACE OR RELIGION. I WILL GREATLY MISS MIKE AS A GOOD FRIEND AND MENTOR. I WILL ESPECIALLY MISS THE THURSDAY NIGHT GATHERING AT HIS HOME WITH BILL KEEFE, PAUL COLLINS, ROSEMARY, MIKE AND MYSELF TO DISCUSS EVENTS OF THE DAY HAPPENINGS WITHIN THE CITY, COUNTY, STATE AND NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY! MAY ALL MIGHT GOD GIVE TOO MIKE THE REWARDS HE SO JUSTLY EARNED ON EARTH AS A GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT. AND MAY JESUS GIVE ROSEMARY THE COURAGE AND STRENGTH TO GO FORTH IN A WORLD WITHOUT MIKE KNOWING THAT THEY WILL BE REUNITED WITHIN THE ARMS OF ALL MIGHT GOD ONE DAY!  
RICHARD BARRETT

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**RICHARD J. BARRETT** - May 29, 2021 at 12:57 PM

PC

“ After so many difficult years Mike has been granted his Eternal Reward. I have never known a kinder man. I will miss his sense of humor which he so often revealed at our daily lunches so many years ago. As I look at this picture, I see Mike in all his glory. Now he is in Heaven telling the Lord how to get out the vote. RIP dear friend.



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**paul collins** - May 28, 2021 at 10:56 AM

AR

“ Rosemary,  
Auntie Alice and our family send you and yours our heartfelt condolences. I myself remember Michael at your wedding years ago —and hope you all treasure the good memories of your life together...  
With warmest wishes,  
Amy (Wang) de Rham

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**A de Rham** - May 27, 2021 at 10:24 PM