



## Mr. Donald James Kaple

January 27, 1930 - November 28, 2017

Donald James Kaple, 87, of Alpharetta, GA, died unexpectedly at his home on November 28, 2017.

Don was born on January 27, 1930, in Lima, OH and attended St. John's parish grade school. At age 14, he left home to begin his seminary preparation for priesthood and attended seminaries in Columbus and Cincinnati OH and St. Meinrad's, IN. He was ordained for ministry on May 31, 1958, for the Glenmary Home Missioners of Cincinnati, and served in parishes in West Virginia, western North Carolina and north Texas for the next 10 years. In 1968, he left the active ministry and moved to GA, where he earned a doctorate in Adult Education from the University of Georgia. He met and married his wife, Marion Keeler, in 1969, in Atlanta.

Don's entire professional life was devoted to teaching, counseling and administration of Adult Basic Education and literacy programs for disadvantaged and disenfranchised adults in Maine, Kansas, Nebraska and Georgia. He retired from this ministry in 1995.

Upon retirement, Don and Marion moved to Jonas Ridge in the Appalachian mountains of NC. There Don pursued his deep interests in prayer, study, writing and caring for God's creation on his own 5 acres of beautiful mountain land. Don was a passionate life-long seeker, and he delighted in sharing his

questions, insights and growing understanding of the Incarnational God with others in stimulating discussions and through his monthly blog, "From the Belly of the Whale". He remained close to his Glenmary community all his life, was an associate member of the Sisters of St. Francis in Rochester, MN and was affiliated with New Creation Monastery in Mount Holly, NC. In recent years, Don and Marion were drawn to a more contemplative life, particularly through Centering Prayer and the daily meditations of Richard Rohr, OFM.

Don will be forever missed by Marion, his wife of 48 years, his daughter Katie Kaple Hummel, her husband Frank, and two daughters, Anna and Claire, of Woodstock, GA, and his son Daniel Keeler Kaple, his wife Franya, and son Colton, of Pittsburgh PA. He is also survived by his sister Mary Ann Deitering, brothers Bob and Paul Kaple and many nieces and nephews, all of the Lima OH area.

A funeral liturgy will be celebrated for Don on Friday, January 5, at 10:00 am at St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church in Alpharetta. A memorial service in OH will be held at a later date. If you wish to honor Don's memory, he would be pleased if you made a donation to Glenmary Home Missioners, the Sisters of St. Francis, Rochester, MN, New Creation Monastery, the Center for Contemplation and Action in Albuquerque, or a charity of your choice.

Let us give thanks that Don has completed his journey to God and may now know the fullness of God's love and peace.

# Cemetery Details

## **Cremation - Northside Chapel Crematory**

12050 Crabapple Road  
Roswell, GA

# Tribute Wall



“ *Mr. Donald James Kaple*

---

October 08, 2022 at 11:37 AM



“ *Marion,*

*What a wonderful and meaningful life Don lived. Both of you are an inspiration to me and I am a very lucky person to have gotten to know you.*

*Much love to you and your family.*

*Charlene Carswell*

---

**Charlene Carswell** - January 03, 2018 at 04:29 PM

IH

“ Well, Don, when last we met on Jonas Ridge I had a feeling....I saw the tears as you spoke of leaving Jonah's House on Jonas Ridge. But I said nothing. Later that day, I called you from my cabin down the road, having just read Barbara Taylor's book *AN ALTAR IN THE WORLD*. "Don," I asked. "Have you ever read your poems to a tree?" "No," you replied enthusiastically. "Should I?" "Yes," I said. "Go find a tree and read to it." I have just learned that you have departed this world, Don. I can well imagine you are reading your poems to clouds, to stars, and to the entire universe! I'll miss our talks at Jonah's House with your dear wife, Marion. What depths we explored. Thank you for sharing your thirst for knowledge, for spiritual and poetic growth. Thank you for your joy, for your courage to look deeply and to feel deeply. We are all going to miss your wild laughter, as well. I remember we shared a line from one of Robert Browning's poems: "Things learned on earth we shall practice in heaven." I know you are really practicing lots, Don. Practicing with the Greats! Be at peace. Your friend, Irene Blair Honeycutt



---

**Irene B Honeycutt** - December 27, 2017 at 07:23 PM

LE

“ Dear Marion,  
  
*Blessings to you, Katie, Frank, Anna, Claire, Dan and his family, and Don's siblings. Don was kind, generous, fun loving, insightful and caring. Such a dear neighbor!*

*God's peace and love to you all.*

*Leslie Misch*

---

**Leslie** - December 19, 2017 at 09:42 PM

TZ

“ Dear Marion,

*What a privilege to have spent real quality time with Don! He was such a deep thinker but was also willing to share some of the more intimate parts of his life with us, especially the last few times he was with us in class. For me, he epitomized the constant seeker. He could have written "The Holy Longing". I hope you find some comfort in the sure knowledge that his search for God has reached its conclusion. Peace and joy in God's presence at last. If there are conversations in heaven, wouldn't you love to be fly on the wall?!*

*With prayers for you and your family as you suffer this great, great loss,*

*Terry Zobel*

---

**Terry Zobel** - December 14, 2017 at 12:00 PM

RP

“ *When I think of Don, I think of St. Augustine's words, "Our hearts are restless until they rest in Thee." I admired Don's restless searching, his inner drive to demand more of himself. His search is over, and he now rests in peace. My love and sympathy to my dear friend Marion, and to Katie and Dan and their families.*

*--Rosemary Grebin Palms*

---

**Rosemary Grebin Palms** - December 08, 2017 at 09:43 PM

PA

“ *Don, you WERE one of a kind, a wonderful "one of a kind"...now take your rest for life has not ended but it has changed.*

---

**Paul Ackerman** - December 08, 2017 at 10:56 AM