



Alive in Christ Chronicle

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EPIPHANY PARISHIONER REMEMBERED FOR FAITH, GENEROSITY



During his lifetime, Joseph M. Sciortino received an abundance of blessings and he spent a lifetime giving back in gratitude.

On February 1, Sciortino lost his long battle with cancer. He was 77. He will be remembered as a beloved husband, father, grandfather and friend. He will also be remembered for his extraordinary compassion for the poor, hungry and needy.

“Joe Sciortino stood out as a generous and gracious giant in the parish community. He was fatherly and tender, ready to take the person in need, whatever the need, under his wing,” said Sr. Nora McCann, RSM, pastoral associate

of the Church of the Epiphany. “Faith and Good Works were the lived reality of his own steadfast faith.”

Sciortino belonged to the Church of the Epiphany in Port Orange for nine years and was a strong supporter of the Epiphany Help Center, which provides food and social services to families facing financial struggles.

His support of the Epiphany Help Center included a generous gift to the *Alive in Christ* Campaign. Church of the Epiphany will use proceeds from the campaign to establish the *Epiphany Outreach Endowment*, which will provide long-term financial support for the Help Center. To date, Church of the Epiphany has raised over \$573,000 for *Alive in Christ*.

In the corporate world, Sciortino was highly regarded for his strong work and business ethic. In 1976, he became President and CEO of Sysco Food Services of South Florida, a position he held for 21 years until his retirement in 1997.

During his time in South Florida he served as a founding director of the Covenant House of Ft. Lauderdale, a shelter for runaway youth and the Daily Bread Community Food Bank of South Florida.

After he retired from Sysco, he and his wife Marilyn moved to Daytona Beach and joined Church of the Epiphany. This past May, during the Festival of Faith, Sciortino received a Papal Medal: the Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice, which means “For Church and Pope.” It is the highest medal a lay person can receive from the pope.

Between 2006 and 2008, Sciortino served on the Board of Directors of Catholic Charities of Central Florida.

“Like me, a lot of people were touched positively by Joe over the years: his coworkers, his fellow parishioners and people from the community. All were struck by his deep faith and spirituality that were the foundations of his being,” said Arne Nelson, President and

CEO of Catholic Charities of Central Florida.

“Joe left a legacy of love for his fellow man, charity towards all, and dedicated service and devotion to the Church that will be missed and hard to replace.”

Joe also served as a founding board member of the Catholic Foundation of Central Florida. The recently established charitable organization is designed to address the immediate and long-term capital and endowment needs of our parishes and our diocese.

“Our Church has lost a great man on earth and gained a guardian in heaven,” said Marilyn Blanchette, president of the Catholic Foundation of Central Florida.

Reprinted from an article by Teresa Lantigua Peterson.