

# THE FUNERAL MASS FOR

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**Dr. Michael Fonseca, D.Min.**

*January 18, 1943 – August 12, 2026*

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Thursday, August 20, 2026 • 10:00 a.m.

St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church • Weimar, Texas

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Most Reverend Brendan J. Cahill, S.T.D.  
Bishop of Victoria  
Principal Celebrant

Concelebrants:

Rev. Philip L. Brune; Rev. Wayne N. Flagg;  
Rev. Ken Geraci, CPM; Rev. Shane Goertz;  
Rev. Chase R. Goodman; Rev. Caleb Krischke;  
Very Rev. Jasper J. Liggio, VG;  
Rev. Anthony Augustine Owusu Peprah;  
Rev. Aaron Padilla; Rev. Luke Prihoda

Deacon of the Gospel: Deacon Patrick Kubala  
Deacon Assisting at the Altar: Deacon John Durant

*With gratitude to all clergy who join us in prayer,  
including those whose presence was not known at the time this program was printed.*

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*“Take, Lord, and receive all my liberty, my memory,  
my understanding, and my entire will...”*

*— Suscipe Prayer of St. Ignatius of Loyola*

## ORDER OF MASS

### INTRODUCTORY RITES

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Prelude | Ave Maria  
Entrance Procession | Holy God We Praise Thy Name  
Greeting  
Sprinkling with Holy Water in Remembrance of Baptism  
Placing of the Pall  
Opening Prayer

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

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First Reading | Wisdom 3:1-9 | DeeAnn Hooper  
Responsorial Psalm | Psalm 23: Shepherd Me, O God, beyond wants, beyond my fears, from death into life  
Second Reading | Romans 8:14-23 | Sharon Muzny  
Gospel Acclamation  
Gospel | Matthew 11:25-30 | Deacon Patrick Kubala  
Homilist | Father Augustine Owusu-Peprah  
Universal Prayer

### LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

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Presentation of the Gifts | Ralph & Linda Schmidt  
Offertory Hymn | These Alone Are Enough (Prayer of St. Ignatius of Loyola)  
Eucharistic Prayer  
The Sanctus  
Memorial Acclamation  
Great Amen  
The Lord's Prayer  
Sign of Peace  
Agnus Dei  
Holy Communion  
Communion Hymns | I am The Bread of Life, Only in God, Shelter Me O God

### COMMUNION & FINAL COMMENDATION

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Prayer after Communion  
Words of Remembrance | Stacy Oeding  
Final Commendation  
Song of Farewell | Saints of God  
Recessional Hymn | I Know That My Redeemer Lives

### PRAYERS AT THE GRAVE

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*Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord. R. And let perpetual light shine upon him.  
May he rest in peace. R. Amen.  
May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed,  
through the mercy of God, rest in peace. R. Amen.*

Salve Regina | Father Wayne Flagg

# A LIFE REMEMBERED

Dr. Michael Fonseca, D.Min., beloved husband, mentor, teacher, spiritual director, and friend, was called home to the Lord on August 12, 2026, at the age of 83. With deep sorrow and resurrection hope, his family and the countless people whose lives he touched entrust him to the loving mercy of God.

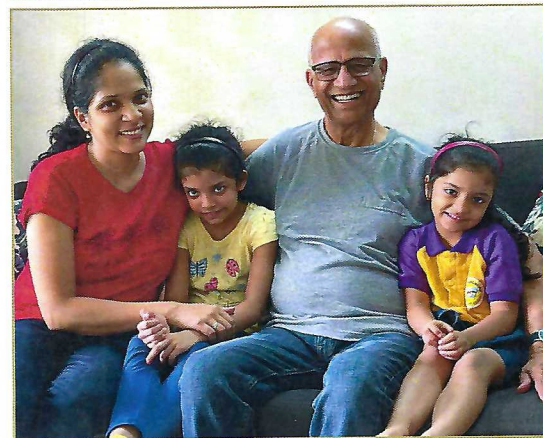
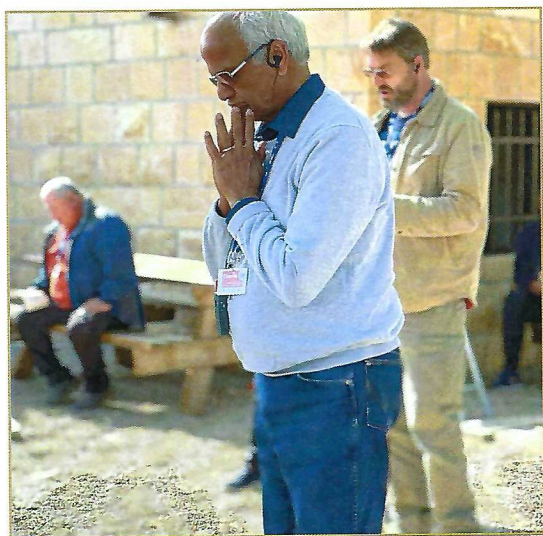
Born in India to Anthony and Marie D'souza Fonseca, Michael was a former member of the Society of Jesus.

He served as a Jesuit priest in the Archdiocese of Ranchi, India, where he taught, led retreats, offered spiritual direction, and helped form Jesuit seminarians. Following his laicization in 1990, he continued to serve the Church faithfully as a layman.

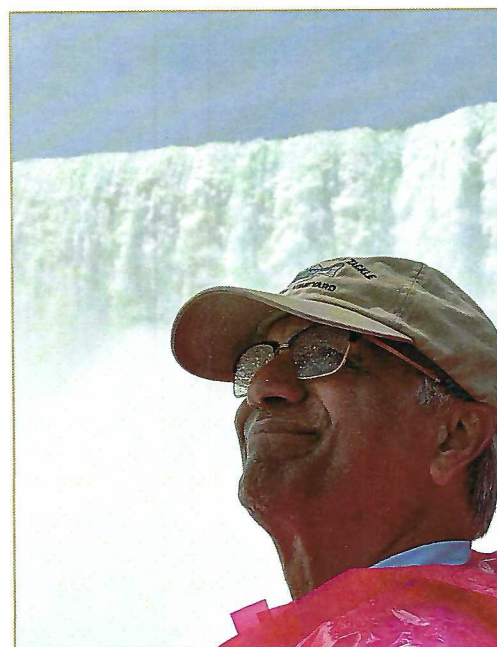
A lifelong student of faith and the human person, Michael earned advanced degrees in ministry, counseling psychology, theology, English literature, and philosophy. For more than three decades, he devoted his life to spiritual formation, retreat ministry, teaching, and spiritual direction in the Dioceses of Victoria, TX, Gaylord, MI, and Grand Rapids, MI.

Together with his beloved wife, Cherrie, Michael founded God's Embrace Ministries. Their shared desire to "light candles" rather than curse the darkness became a lifelong invitation for Catholics to enter more deeply into prayer, Scripture, the sacraments, and the loving embrace of the Triune God. Michael encouraged countless people to become authentic disciples and "great saints." In 2023, he also became Director of Healing at Our Lady's Healing Center in Seadrift, TX.

On October 7, 2023, Michael received the Pontifical Benemerenti Medal, recognizing his dedicated service to the Church.



Michael was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Cherrie Fonseca; his parents, Anthony and Marie D'souza Fonseca; and his sisters, Georgina and Carmen. He is survived by his sons, Robert Lee and Charles Bertelink; grandchildren, Josh Lee, Ashlen Lee, Keziah Roy, Isaac Lee, and Moriah Lee; great-grandchildren, Thorin and William; brother, Cyril Fonseca and his wife, Aggie; brother-in-law, Victor Lemos; sister-in-law, Ann Reed and her husband, Bill; niece, Christine Anderson Pennington and her husband, Doug; nephew, Edward Reed; his beloved family in India and countless friends whose lives were enriched by his love, faith, and spiritual fatherhood.



## WITH GRATITUDE

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### MUSIC

Choir with singers from: St. Mary High Hill, St. Rose of Lima, ACTS Community

Directors: Amanda Brown & Denise Trojacek

Organist: Peggy Kalich

### PALLBEARERS

Randall Becker

Chris Cruickshank

Jerry DeShaw

Steve Fase

Fr. Wayne Flagg

Cody Horton

Eamon McCourt

Ralph Schmidt

### HONORARY PALLBEARERS

Robert Lee, Charles Bertelink, Christine Anderson Pennington & Douglas Pennington

## MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

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Memorial gifts in honor of Dr. Michael Fonseca  
may be made to the ministries through which he so faithfully served:

### ***God's Embrace Ministries, Inc.***

Founded by Michael and Cherrie Fonseca, God's Embrace Ministries continues  
their work of Teaching and Empowering Catholics to experience daily the loving embrace of our Triune  
God.

1601 High Hill Rd.

Schulenburg, TX 78956

GodsEmbrace.org

### ***Our Lady's Healing Center***

Michael served as Director of Healing, helping guide its Catholic ministry of healing, prayer,  
the sacraments, and compassionate accompaniment.

P.O. Box 826

Seadrift, TX 77983

OurLadysHealingCenter.org

Please note "In memory of Dr. Michael Fonseca" on checks or online gifts.  
Memorial contributions may also be made to a charity of one's choice.

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The family invites you to join them for lunch at St. Mary Parish Hall  
in High Hill following the burial.

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