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## From the Editor; Obituary

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## From the Editor; Obituary

## From the Editor

The first issue of *Verbum* appeared in the fall of 2003 as a joint publication of the Religious Studies Department and Religious Studies Club. Despite its association in the minds of its readers with Fr. Michael Costanzo, his name appeared only as its faculty advisor – that and his being the contributor of two prizes awarded to two of the student essayists. Over the years, *Verbum* grew beyond a student-directed publication to include articles by faculty and alumni, poetry, human interest stories, book and film reviews. As *Verbum* evolved so did Michael's role. Whether as faculty advisor or eventually as editor, he was always its ever-ardent inspiration. His untimely death nearly a year ago suspended publication until this final, commemorative, issue could appear. The quality of contributions makes it, moreover, an especially worthy and fitting tribute to *Verbum's* founder. I am confident he is smiling down on those who will take it up one last time.

*Rev. Dr. John Colacino C.P.P.S.*

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## Obituary

Father Michael Costanzo died on Wednesday May 24, 2017. He was 73 years old and had served as a priest for nearly 51 years. Father Costanzo was born and educated in Sicily, Italy, where he taught from 1962-1970. At the end of 1970 he came to the United States to join his parents and family, already living in Rochester, NY since 1962. After receiving a PhD in 1979 and a Doctorate in Biblical Theology in 1987 from the University of St. Thomas in Rome, Italy, he returned to Rochester and taught at St. John Fisher College, Nazareth College, MCC, and BOCES. Father Costanzo was ordained a priest by Bishop James E. Kearney in July 1966 at the age of 22 and was a member of the Diocese of Piazza Armerina in Sicily, and has served in the Diocese of Rochester, NY since 1971. During his many years of ministry, Father Costanzo served in parishes throughout Rochester including St. Jerome's in East Rochester, St. John of Rochester, Church of the Holy Spirit in Penfield, and St. Paul's in Webster. Father Costanzo is a published author of three books of poetry and one book of prayers. Father Costanzo loved teaching, music, reading, gardening, traveling, and enjoying a cup of espresso with family and friends.

He is predeceased by his parents, Francesco and Serafina Costanzo; brother-in-law, Croce Buscema; nephew, Francesco Buscema; cousins, Joseph Torregrossa and Serafino Pavone; and many aunts and uncles. He is survived by sisters, Concetta Buscema, and Josephine (Luigi) Cozzo; nieces, Lucia (Lillo) Giaccio, Serafina (Franco) Merlo, Rita (Jean-Jacques) Duboisdindien, and Cristina (Joseph) Picca; nephews, Paolo (Isabelle) Buscema, Sergio (Rita) Buscema, and Philip (Jennifer) Cozzo; and seventeen grand-nieces and grand-nephews.

