

OBITUARY

JULY 8, 1933

Reverend Lawrence Edward Lucas

APRIL 18, 2020

“You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek.” Heb 7:17

Father Lawrence Lucas was born and grew up in Harlem, New York. He attended PS 39 and St. Mark the Evangelist School before transferring to All Saints Catholic School, which was located across the street from the Lucas home, when it began to accept black children. Upon his graduation with honors from All Saints he entered Cathedral Seminary in Yonkers, New York.

Father Lucas was ordained a priest on May 30, 1959 by His Eminence Francis Joseph Cardinal Spellman.

After his ordination he was assigned to St. Joseph’s Parish in Croton Falls, New York, and then to St. Peters Church on Barclay Street. His next assignment was at St. Charles Borromeo where he served as Parochial Assistant until June 1965.

With permission from Cardinal Spellman, he accepted a scholarship from the National Council of Christians and Jews to study Sociology and Broadcasting at the University of Indiana. During his time in Indiana he produced a television program called “Let’s Talk” and a weekly column entitled “The Black Voice”.

In 1968, Father Lucas, along with the late Father George Clements and Father Gus Taylor, founded the National Black Catholic Clergy Conference.

In September 1968, Father Lucas returned to New York and was assigned to St. Joseph Parish in Harlem as the Parochial Assistant. That same year, after the death of Msgr. Joseph Walsh, Father Lucas was appointed pastor of Resurrection Church, where he served faithfully for the next twenty-three years.

Fr. Lucas began a new career with the New York City Department of Correction in 1991, where he served as Administrative Chaplain for Catholic Affairs in Corrections.

Father Lucas was the celebrated author of *“Black Priest, White Church”* and was a well-known lecturer, and media commentator. Selections of his writings are catalogued at Boston University’s Mugar Memorial Library.

Father Lucas is survived by his two brothers, Retired Judge William Lucas (Evelyn), and James Lucas (Carlotta), Retired President of the Local 888 UFCW, and his only sister, Patricia Lucas, DHM; as well as a host of nieces, nephews, grandnieces, grandnephews, great-grandnieces, and great -grandnephews.

Father Lucas was preceded in death by his parents, George and Miriam; and brothers, Alwyn, Joseph, Alvin George and Howard.