



Leopoldo "Leo" Diaz

MAY 3, 1941 - MAY 29, 2020



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DIAZ, Leopoldo "Leo"

On May 29, 2020, Dr. Leo Diaz, 79, passed away peacefully at home surrounded by his family. He is survived by his loving wife of 58 years, Elaine Diaz, his son Chris Diaz (Toni), daughter Claudine Caballero (Joe), grandchildren Victoria Diaz and Nikolas Thanasides, and many nieces, nephews and cousins. He is preceded in death by his parents, Leopoldo and Virginia Diaz, his granddaughter, Elizabeth Caballero, and his sister and brother-in-law, Geraldine and Pedro Bajo.

Leo graduated from Jesuit High School in 1959. He then attended the University of Tampa where he received his undergraduate degree. He received his Master's degree from Western Kentucky University and went on to achieve his doctorate in Education focusing on Community College Administration at Nova University. After receiving his undergraduate degree, Leo returned to Jesuit High School as both a teacher and coach for several years. He then transitioned to working as a counselor at Hillsborough Community College (HCC), where he held various positions eventually earning the title of Vice President. The Dr. Leo Diaz Scholarship was founded in honor of his contributions and impact to HCC.

Dr. Diaz was an educator, mentor, and philanthropist who dedicated his life in service to God, whom he worshiped devotedly. He was a true "man for others". Leo was a faithful member of St. Lawrence Catholic Church where he served as an Eucharistic Minister and attended daily mass. He was a dedicated and loving husband, father and grandfather. Leo maintained many great friendships throughout his life, some going back to elementary school. His family would like to thank Dr. Corral for his friendship and care throughout the years.

Leo was passionate about helping his community, specifically children. His philanthropic spirit guided his involvement in numerous organizations in the Tampa Bay area. He served as Chairman of the Children's Board of Hillsborough County,



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President of Tampa Sports Club and the Florida Association of Community Colleges. He was a member of the Corporate Board of the Boys and Girls Club, Rotary Club of Tampa, Jesuit High School Foundation and HCC Foundation. He served on the board of Academy of the Holy Names and Sacred Heart Academy.

He received many honors and awards, notably his designation as a Professor Emeritus at HCC and the Paul Harris Fellow Recognition by the Rotary Club of Tampa.

“Coach”, you will be deeply missed by all those whose lives you touched. A private mass for immediate family will be held followed by a celebration of life at a later date. The funeral mass will be live streamed on Friday, June 5, at 10:30 AM. The link will be posted on Boza & Roel website on Thursday. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Jesuit High School, St. Lawrence Catholic Church, Boys and Girls Club of Tampa Bay, or Rotary’s Camp Florida.

The funeral mass will be live streamed on Friday, June 5, at 10:30 AM

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCtb5XK1lVXx6G2FGWP4xGGQ/live>



Tribute Wall

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SD

Sam Dimarco posted:

Our deepest condolences to Elaine and family. We will miss seeing you both at 7:30 mass at St. Lawrence Church and at Arcos Iris for breakfast. Our hearts and prayers are with you Elaine.Sam (The Governor) and Margie DiMarco

June 7 at 2:27 PM

BM

Betty Molina posted:

I am so sorry for the loss of your husband and father. He was a kind and loving person. He always was so welcoming when I came to your home. The mass was beautiful and am so thankful I was able to participate in it. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. He will be missed. Betty Molina

June 5 at 8:07 AM

JA

John J. Agliano posted:

Please accept my condolences for the loss of Leo. He was truly a Man for Others. Chris definitely captured his father's essence in his sweet and loving eulogy. May Leo rest in peace.John Agliano

June 5 at 7:58 AM

GL

Gigi And Sonny Labarbera posted:

Our sympathy, thoughts, prayers and love are with your family during this very difficult time. Leo was so kind and thoughtful. He will be missed. Love,Gigi and Sonny LaBarbera

June 5 at 7:45 AM

WL

Walter Lopez posted:

Our condolences to Elaine and the family. Leo drew his strength from his family, friends, and his Church. He was truly a "man for others"; a "thinking man in action." Leo not only couldn't say "no", he wouldn't say "no". In Leo's world any person in need was never a stranger. We will miss our dear friend. Walter and Yolanda Lopez

June 4 at 12:49 PM



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RZ

Richard Zabak posted:

I have known Leo as a cousin, a teacher and a friend for most of my life. He was a wonderful and accomplished individual and proof that nice guys actually can and do finish first. My wife Elizabeth and I extend our sympathy. Rick Zabak

June 4 at 11:42 AM

BL

Brian Lynch sent a Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet to the Diaz family.



June 4 at 6:24 AM

TA

Tom Athan posted:

Please accept my condolences and prayers for your loss. I never met Leo but I've known Chris for many years and now I understand better how he became the smart, thoughtful, compassionate, caring, generous and fun person that he is. Leo will be missed by all who knew him but I'm sure he would be proud to know his legacy will live on. -Tom Athan

June 4 at 4:01 AM

LT

Laura Costa Talley posted:

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family during this time. What a wonderful man with a bright and enduring legacy! We know he will be missed. His influence and inspiration live on. Love, Laura and Jay Talley

June 3 at 11:40 AM

JC

Joe Chillura posted:

Our Prayers go out to Elaine and family. May your memories of happy times sustain you in your loss. Leo was a great man whom I have know since high school. Many fun and happy memories of high school days. Leo is a talented professional and true gentleman. May he rest in the arms of the angels. God bless and keep you and your family safe and well. Joe and Mary Helen Chillura

June 3 at 11:03 AM



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Anonymous sent a Divine Light to the Diaz family.

June 3 at 10:41 AM



Anonymous sent a Beautiful in Blue to the Diaz family.

June 3 at 10:08 AM



Jack Kaufman posted:

Coach Leo was one of my football and track coaches at Jesuit. Over the years I ran into coach Leo and coach Frank Fernandez and we shared memories of the good old days at Jesuit. He was a special guy and will be missed by all those he taught or coached. Deepest condolences to his family. Jack Kaufman

June 3 at 9:45 AM



Joan Johnson posted:

I worked with Leo many years ago at HCC. He set the example of integrity and compassion. I am thankful to have know him. Rest in peace, Leo. Prayers to the family of this good man. Joan Johnson, Alabama

June 2 at 7:03 PM



Karen Delgado Vega lit a candle in honor of Leopoldo.

Our heartfelt condolences to the family for your loss. Thoughts and prayers are with you all. With deepest sympathy, Michael & Karen (Delgado) Vega

June 2 at 5:14 PM





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LF

Liz Fields posted:

Leo was such a strong supporter of Rotary's Camp Florida and was always concerned about special needs kids. He was such a great man who worked for the cause and not the glory. I will miss him very much. Condolences to all of the family. Liz Fields, Executive Director, Rotary's Camp Florida

June 2 at 2:24 PM

FM

Frank Massari Jr posted:

My deepest sympathy for the loss of Leo. He was my teacher, coach and friend. I sent out the news of his passing to my 1968 Jesuit classmates and the fond memories poured in. We have lost a great one. Frank Massari Jr

June 2 at 5:13 AM

RM

Richard Muga posted:

Our deepest condolences for the loss of such a fine man. Our prayers are with his family. Richard and Sylvia Muga

June 1 at 5:35 PM

JR

Joe Ramentol posted:

I have known Leo for over 60 years as a coach and teacher, he will be missed, May he Rest In Peace

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June 1 at 2:16 PM

SR

Sam Rodriguez June 5 at 6:53 AM

My condolence to family. Leo was a great friend and educator in this community. He will surely be missed. May god bless him and his family during this difficult time.



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Leopoldo by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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