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Charles L.J. Freihofer, Man of High Character and Strong Faith

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Charles L J Freihofer

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Faith was the most important thing in Charles L.J. Freihofer's life.

"He was a man of high character, and looked for God's presence in everything," said his son, the Rev. Michael Freihofer of Granby, Colo.

For 12 years, Freihofer was an evangelist for the Catholic Church, implementing Constant Vigil of Prayer programs in various tri-state churches. "He helped get churches to pray 24/7," said Father Michael. "Many parishes were able to come up with

a calendar where someone would be praying 24/7. They had every hour covered."

"He promoted the faith and the Rosary. He was very pro-life," said his son.

Freihofer would pray quietly in front of abortion clinics, including Planned Parenthood in Cincinnati.

"He never yelled at the girls (going in). He would just sit there and pray Rosary," said Father Michael. "He was concerned about the girls, the doctors, the nurses. He hoped they would come back to God."

Charles L.J. Freihofer died Tuesday at St. Elizabeth Hospice, Edgewood. He was 71.

"Church and God were the center of our lives. I was on my knees at the age of four," said Father Michael. "His placing such importance on God made me want to place God first, then God called me to be a priest."

A duty Father Michael must perform is giving Mass at his father's service on Friday. Freihofer also received the Sacrament of Confession and the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick from his son.

"It's weird going from being the biological son to a spiritual figure," said Father Michael.

His faith played a part in Freihofer becoming an attorney and a trustee in bankruptcy law.

"He wanted to help these people," said his son.

Freihofer practiced law in Covington and Fort Mitchell from 1967 to 2006 with his wife as secretary. The bulk of Freihofer's practice was acting as a trustee and filing his own bankruptcy cases.

"(Bankruptcy) wasn't depressing to deal with," said his wife of 47 years and his secretary of 35 years, Carol P. Maggio Freihofer. "Everyone thinks bankruptcy is dry, but it's interesting. We always had interesting, lively discussions about cases."

"Our goal with our clients was to avoid bankruptcy as much as possible," said Mrs. Freihofer. "We did counseling, putting clients on a budget, making them cut up the credit cards."

In some cases, bankruptcy was unavoidable due to medical issues, tragedy, or divorce.

"Many cases, clients called up, expressing thanks," said Mrs. Freihofer. "We'd get calls from clients saying, 'We've been debt free for seven years.'"

As husband and wife working as boss and secretary, "We were a Perry Mason and Della Street kind of thing. There was no need to make waves when you needed to be professional."

Freihofer also served in the Air Force as a navigator from 1959 to 1964, attaining the rank of captain.

Additional survivors include a son, Conrad Freihofer of Florence; a daughter, Jennifer Steer of Louisville; brothers, Frederick Freihofer and Rex Freihofer, both of Lakeside Park, Alex Freihofer of Fort Mitchell, and Victor Freihofer of Walton; a sister, Charlotte Ott of Crescent Springs; and three grandchildren.

Mass of Christian burial will be at noon Friday, with the Chaplet of Divine Mercy recited at 11:45 a.m., at Blessed Sacrament Church, Fort Mitchell. Visitation will begin there at 10 a.m. Friday. Burial will be in St. Mary Cemetery, Fort Mitchell.

Memorials are suggested to Passionist Nuns, 1151 Donaldson Highway, Erlanger, Ky. 41018.

Middendorf-Bullock Funeral Home, Erlanger, is handling the arrangements.

Online condolences may be expressed at www.middendorfbullock.com.

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