



William Finley Rainey Jr.

June 25, 1957 - December 16, 2018

William Finley Francis Xavier Rainey was born June 25, 1957 in Baltimore, Maryland. He was the only son of William F. Rainey and Velma Edmonds Rainey. He departed this life, from labor to reward, on Sunday morning, December 16, 2018.

William attended Baltimore City Public Schools and graduated from Harbor City HS. He also took college courses at both Morgan and Towson State. He had a variety of jobs including shortorder cook, waiter and dishwasher at The Pioneer Lunch Room. Other employment included daycare aide, photo processor and cook at Alliance, Inc. He is well known for his prolific poetry which he gave out freely to any and everyone on the street, at events and at bus stops. His greatest work however was 'Praising the Lord'.

William, known to many as 'Finley', the grandson of devout Christians (the late William & Rose Adams Rainey and Roger & Monwillla Johnson Edmonds) began his relationship with Christ at an early age. He was a dedicated, life-long member of St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church where he was baptized and confirmed. William served as a Lector, sang on the Men's and Gospel Choirs, was a member of The New Horizons of Men and selfdesignated 'Unofficial Praise Leader'.

William married the love of his life Easter McLean on June 25, 2011 – yes on his birthday! "William was my friend as well as my husband," says Easter. "He met no strangers. Most importantly, he loved the Lord with

all his mind, heart and spirit. He was a great poet and dancer. He loved to praise the Lord. Many may not know that my William was also, a horticulturist, growing and nurturing so many beautiful plants. Overall William loved people – and he loved life. He evangelized by sharing the Holy Spirit through his poetry”.

William leaves to cherish his memory: his devoted wife, Easter McLean-Rainey; sister and brother-in-law, Cecelia and Stevie Bowman; nieces, Niya Waters and Fanta Bowman; cousin and goddaughter, Latrice Holt; aunt, Margaret Holt; cousin-brother, Bryan Holt; cousin-sister, Stacey Holt; uncle and aunt, Louis and Jeanne Edmonds; grand-niece and two grand-nephews; two other brothers-in-law, eight sisters-in-law, and a host of cousins, church family and friends.

In William’s own words from his last voice message, “...Everything must change, nothing remains the same, the one thing you can be sure of Jesus is always the same ...” AMEN!

Cemetery Details

Mt. Zion

3900 Hollins Ferry Rd.
Lansdowne, MD 21227

Previous Events

viewing

DEC **21**. 3:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

March Funeral Homes - East Baltimore
1101 East North Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21202
(410) 727-3300
info@marchfh.com

Wake

DEC **22**. 10:00 AM - 10:30 AM (ET)

St Francis Xavier Catholic
1501 E. Oliver Street
Baltimore, MD

Service

DEC **22**. 10:30 AM (ET)

St Francis Xavier Catholic
1501 E. Oliver Street
Baltimore, MD

Tribute Wall



“ *William Finley Rainey Jr.*

October 13, 2022 at 08:33 AM



“ *Dear Easter,*

We at the Cathedral and the Basilica were saddened to learn of William's passing. He was a devout disciple of the Lord and, through his poetry and wonderful smile, glorified His Father in Heaven. How often at Mass I hear in the back of my mind William's AMEN! when the priest celebrant proclaims a spiritual truism or scriptural verse deserving an Amen as strong and supportive as William's.

You, dear Easter, were the best in William's life. We pray that the Holy Spirit will be a source of comfort and consolation to you and all William's family and friends who are mourning his death. In time, may the void William's passing has left be filled with memories of the joy-filled moments you and William shared in your life together.

T

In loving memory of William, his Cathedral friends scheduled two Masses to be offered for the peaceful repose of his soul: (1) Wednesday August 7, 2019 at 5:30pm Mass; and (2) on the first Anniversary of his passing, Monday December 16, 2019 at 5:30pm Mass. We hope you can join us.

*With love and prayers,
Gail Fennessey*

Gail Fennessey - June 28, 2019 at 12:43 PM

EM

I am just seeing this post; so much has happened since William's transition. All's well with me & the family. I do miss my Williams as if it happened yesterday. I live in Raleigh, NC at this time. Thanks so much Gail & forgive me for just now responding! Love U & the Cathedral

Easter McLean-Rainey - June 20, 2021 at 11:05 PM

SF

“ *Outspoken at mass about what the Lord has done for himself and all of us. Now living in His true presence. ✙✙*

Steve futado (st Francis) - December 23, 2018 at 06:03 PM



“ *LA'trice Holt lit a candle in memory of William Finley Rainey Jr.*



LA'trice Holt - December 22, 2018 at 12:35 PM

TC

“ *The SFX Gospel Choir purchased the Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant for the family of William Finley Rainey Jr..*



The SFX Gospel Choir - December 21, 2018 at 11:50 AM



“ We the March Family and Staff wish to extend our deepest and heartfelt sympathy in the passing of your loved one. Our prayers go out to you and your family in your time of loss. We know and understand that you have received many expressions of love and we will continue to lift you up in prayer. May the memories you cherish of brighter and happier days help to ease your sorrow and comfort you always.

March Funeral Homes - December 18, 2018 at 12:11 PM