

## Rupert Leadon Funeral

- I am Deacon Frank Tremblay – Administrator of the Catholic Churches on Andros
  - Condolences to friends and family
- In MA I read all about the Bahamas – Junkanoo – Conch – Sapodillas – Blue Holes
  - I knew all about them – but until I experienced them I didn't know them
  - I knew dillies were sweet – but not cinnamon sweet until I tasted them
  - I can know ABOUT something – but until I experience it, I don't know it
    - Same is true of Rupert
    - I had heard about Rupert, but until I met him I really didn't know him
      - I want to tell you how I met Rupert – how I felt – my excitement
- Last year the Archdiocese celebrated 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of being installed as a Diocese
  - Part of that celebration was the publishing of a book
  - A photographer went to every island and documented the Archdiocese in pics
  - In the Andros section it said that in 1893 the first Mass was said on Andros
    - Five years before St. Mary's in Behring Pt.
    - Home of John Greene owner of the 'Margaurite Sisal Plantation'
  - So I set out to find where this place was
  - I had been meeting with Shawn, preparing to receive Confirmation at Easter
    - Shawn had told me his father knew the history of Cargill – Sooo - -
    - RUPERT TOLD ME Cargill Creek Bonefish Lodge was on that site
    - He was proud of it – proud of his Catholic faith
    - Proud of the role his land played in Catholic history on Andros
    - Together we'd discovered – HOLY GROUND
- You know, about a year ago I went back to the US & nobody met me
  - I was going to catch a bus from airport
  - At the same time VP Chaney had arrived – and for him - -
  - Huge Crowd, Brass Band & they carried him off in a parade into Boston
  - I was left alone & prayed:
    - Lord, I've been away YEARS he's been away WEEKS
    - I've been serving YOUR KINGDOM, he the WORLD'S
    - We both come home and he gets a parade and I'm here alone
    - Lord replied "My Son – you're not home yet"
    - **Rupert is home – now he really is on HOLY GROUND**
    - **Now we thank God for the gift that Rupert was to us**