

He is survived by his children Mary (John Seebach) retired librarian; Margaret, PhD (Michael Peck) Professor of Languages and Literature at the University of North Carolina at Asheville; Joanne (Allan Chamberlain) retired Syracuse City School District Administrator; Elizabeth (A. Patrick Doyle), attorney and Executive Director of the Association of Independent Schools of Greater Washington, DC; Catherine (Dominic Veltri) a pharmaceutical company executive; Dorothy (Robert Raymond) a health consultant in the Seattle WA area; Nancy (John Vresilovic) owner of Edits International, Pittsburgh PA; Edward Downes, PhD, Professor of Communications at Boston University. He is also survived by fourteen grandchildren, one great-grandchild, several nieces and nephews and stepson, Gary Will (Bonnie) of Hamilton NY.

Mr. Downes is predeceased by Margaret Catherine Barrett, his wife of 49 years and mother of his 9 children. She was a teacher in Syracuse schools. Throughout their lives nothing was more important to them than family. He is also predeceased by his son, John Francis, Jr. who died in 1947 at the age of 2 from diphtheria. The last of his generation, he is further predeceased by his siblings Edward Downes, Catherine Priest, Mary McMahon Kelly, Dorothy Downes, Elizabeth McMahon and Margaret Downes.

Family will welcome friends on Monday, from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Tindall Funeral Home, 1921 W. Genesee St, Syracuse. (At his request the family will gather to recite the rosary privately on Sunday.) His funeral Mass will be celebrated on Tuesday, December 5, at 10:00 a.m., St. Michael's Church, Onondaga Hill.

Memorial contributions may be made to Francis House (108 Michaels Ave., Syracuse 13208) or to another charity of your choice.