



Rev. Fr. Raymond Zeugner

January 19, 1936 - March 5, 2023

WINTER HAVEN, FL - Reverend Father Raymond John Zeugner, age 87, formerly of Norway and Florence, died Sunday, March 5, 2023 in Winter Haven, Florida.

Born on January 19, 1936 in Norway, Michigan, he is the son of the late Lawrence and Adeline (Kaster) Zeugner. He attended McKinley School from 1942-46, West Side Grade School 1946-49 and graduated from Norway High School in 1954.

After four years of service in the U.S. Air Force, Ray furthered his education at Northern Michigan University from 1958-60. In response to God's call to the ministerial priesthood, Ray attended Resurrection College in Kitchener, Ontario from 1960-62 and St. John Provincial Seminary in Plymouth, Michigan from 1962-65.

Ordained to the priesthood on June 3, 1967, by Bishop Thomas Noa, Fr. Ray served as associate pastor at St. Peter Cathedral in Marquette for a year and then at St. Joseph & St. Patrick Parish in Hancock until March 1970. He was appointed associate pastor at St. Mary St. Joseph Parish in Iron Mountain until 1976, and then served briefly as associate pastor at Sacred Heart Parish in Munising and St. Therese Mission in Au Train.

On August 5, 1976, Fr. Ray was named Pastor at St. Michael in Perronville, St. Joseph Mission in Foster City and St. Joseph Mission in Northland. He became Pastor of St. Rita Parish in Trenary and St. Therese Mission in Au Train on July 14, 1981. On April 8, 1982, he began serving as the Diocesan Liaison for the Charismatic Renewal. He was named pastor of St. Rose Parish in Channing and St. Joseph Mission in Northland on July 12, 1983.

In 1985, Fr. Ray became pastor of Precious Blood Parish in Stephenson and St. Frederick in Daggett Mission. St. Bruno Parish in Nadeau was added in 1994. He began his last pastorate at Guardian Angels Parish in Crystal Falls on July 1, 1997 and remained there until being granted Senior Priest Status and retirement on July 1, 2003. Until two days before his passing, Fr. Ray assisted at St. Matthew Parish in Winter Haven, Florida. He enjoyed serving other Catholic Communities in the New Haven area as well, where he continued his ministry to the Catholic Charismatic Renewal.

Fr. Ray understood that his faith and the ministerial priesthood were precious gifts from God. His ministry seemed to be characterized by a prophecy received by his dear friend, Sister Frances DeMott, IBVM, which she shared with Fr. Ray on the 25th anniversary of his ordination on June 3, 1992: "My beloved son, what a joy it is for me to see you honored this day. This is only an inkling of the joy I will have when I will no longer be able to resist calling you to Myself. O, for the day when I can say, come my beloved and receive the reward I have prepared for you."

Fr. Ray is survived by brother James (Eileen) Zeugner of Vulcan, and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his sisters Geraldine Kosciuk, Betty Zeugner, Margarite "Peggy" Zeugner and Joyce Bezier; brothers Richard and Thomas Zeugner.

Friends may call on Wednesday, March 15 from 10-12 p.m. CST at St. Mary's Church in Norway.

The Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Wednesday at 12 p.m. with the Most Reverend John F. Doerfler presiding. Monsignor Michael Steber will serve as homilist. Bishop Emeritus James Garland and priests of the Diocese of Marquette will con-celebrate.

A luncheon will follow in the parish hall. Interment will be held in the family plot at Norway Township Cemetery.

Cemetery Details

Norway Township Cemetery

Norway Township, MI

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 15. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

St. Mary's Church
401 Main Street
Norway, MI 49870

Mass of Christian Burial

MAR 15. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (CT)

St. Mary's Church
401 Main Street
Norway, MI 49870

Tribute Wall

RB

“ We were so sorry to be told of Father Ray's passing...he meant so much to us. He was eternally youthful in his manner and his voice was so soothing. And oh, his laugh! Sometimes he would almost bounce as he laughed! We spent a week or two with him at his home many a summer or fall for 20 years. He always welcomed us and was overjoyed to share his table and his home with all of us, even our dog! His love of the Lord always shined through him and he brought us all closer to the Lord. We were blessed to be able to share a morning Mass every day with him and a wonderful personalized homily. We will never forget his exuberant spirit and love for the Lord, may he rest in peace and be joyful in the company of the Lord.

Rick and Renee

Rick Bentrup - March 14, 2023 at 06:31 PM

CH

“ I was shocked when I went on the website and saw that Fr. Ray had died! He was a classmate of mine and I would call him to inform him of activities that we were having (or when someone moved or died)! When time permitted, he would attend our reunions and we all enjoyed visiting with him...and hearing his infectious laugh! He truly was a "man of God" and always very optimistic and willing to provide a spiritual view. When he was in the area, he frequently joined me for Adoration at the Chapel in IronMountain. He will be missed but I am convinced that he's now has a seat in heaven!!!

Connie Hallgren

Connie Hallgren - March 14, 2023 at 11:31 AM

SK

“ *To me Fr Ray was a living saint. His peace filled mannerisms and inspirations from the Holy Spirit have given me new insight into coming closer to God. Rest in peace you beloved Priest of God.*
Sylvia Kronz

SYLVIA KRONZ - March 11, 2023 at 02:06 PM