



Rev. Francis A. Weingartz

JUL 15, 1928 - OCT 2, 2024



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Reverend Francis A. Weingartz went peacefully to Our Lord at age 96 on Wednesday, October 2, 2024, surrounded by his nieces and a dear friend. Francis was born July 15, 1928 to the late Christopher and Agnes (Robinet) Weingartz in Centerline, Michigan. He graduated from Sacred Heart Seminary in June of 1950 and went on to study at St. John's Provincial Seminary. He was ordained to the Priesthood on June 5, 1954, in the Archdiocese of Detroit, Michigan and celebrated his first Mass the following day at his home parish, St Augustine in Richmond, Michigan.

Fr. Francis was a devoted Catholic priest who loved people and blessed us with 70 years of service to Our Lord. He spread God's Word to many parishes in the Archdiocese of Detroit. Father loved singing the Word of God and was often referred to as the "singing priest". His last assignment as pastor was at St. Dorothy Parish, Warren, 1988 to 1998. After being granted Senior Priest Status in 1998, he continued serving Our Lord as a temporary administrator or resident priest at several parishes in the Archdiocese of Detroit, with the last one being Our Lady Star of the Sea in Grosse Pointe Woods.

After leaving Our Lady Star of the Sea in 2013, he continued his active ministry until 2020, celebrating Mass at the senior living facilities where he resided. In addition to his home Diocese, he also served parishes in Anchorage, Alaska and the Island of Cayman Brac. Fr. Francis was devoted to his parishioners and loved greeting many of them with special nicknames.

Father spent his free time and holidays with family and close friends. In his younger years, he enjoyed biking, hiking, and camping throughout Michigan with his nephews but especially with his classmate and best friend "Mitch" (Reverend Edward Mitchell, deceased). Father traveled and studied at Georgetown University and in Rome, including trips to the Vatican, Jerusalem and Bethlehem. He was nicknamed



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“the travelling priest” and “Farmer Francis” having grown up on a farm, but to his close family, nieces and nephews, he was “Uncle Father”.

Fr. Francis is survived by his sister, Rita (Patrick) Franckowiak, his sisters-in-law, Marion (Anthony) and Mary (Leo) Weingartz and many nieces and nephews, their children and grandchildren, other relatives and several friends. He was preceded in death by his brothers and sisters-in-law, Anthony, Clement (Catherine), Vincent (Laura), Leo, Thomas (Agnes) Weingartz, his sister Anne and brother-in-law Benjamin Schwehofer and his brother-in-law Patrick Franckowiak, several nieces and nephews, other relatives and close friends.

Visitation will be Wednesday, October 9th, 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Young Colonial Chapel Funeral Home, China Township, with rosary at 7 p.m. A Mass of Resurrection will be Thursday, October 10th at 10:30 a.m. at St. Augustine Church, Richmond. In state visitation 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. at church prior to the Mass. Archbishop Allen Vigneron will officiate. Interment will be in St. Michael’s Cemetery, Richmond.

A special thanks to all of Father’s caregivers including those at the Village of East Harbor.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Senior Priest Fund, Sacred Heart Major Seminary or the Village of East Harbor (Chesterfield) Benevolence Fund. To leave a message of comfort visit www.youngcolonial.com.



Events

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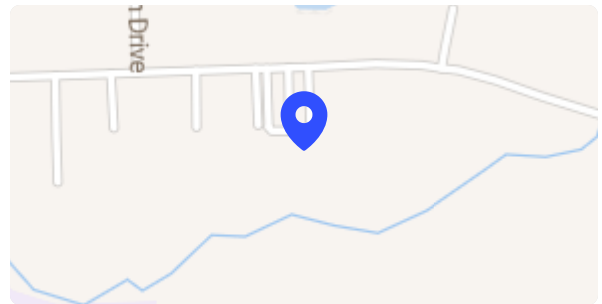
Visitation

Wednesday, October 9, 2024

2:00 PM - 8:00 PM ET

Young Colonial Chapel Funeral Home
4061 Saint Clair Hwy, East China MI

Rosary recital Wednesday evening. Time of rosary pending.

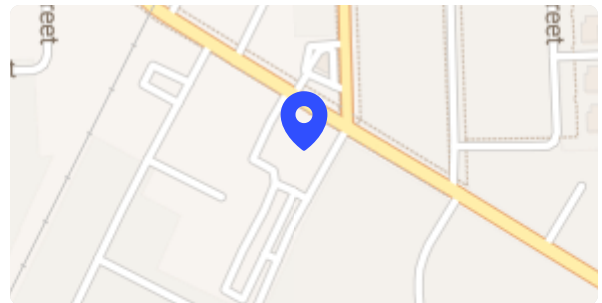


Visitation

Thursday, October 10, 2024

9:30 AM - 10:30 AM ET

St. Augustine Catholic Church
68035 South Main St., Richmond MI

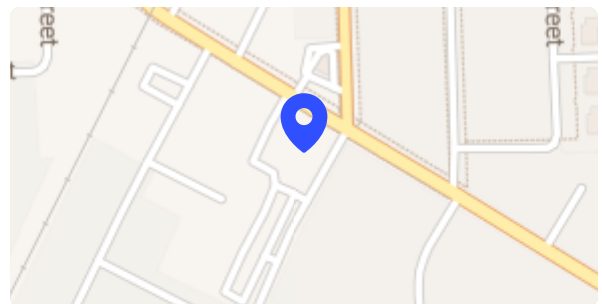


Funeral Mass

Thursday, October 10, 2024

10:30 AM ET

St. Augustine Catholic Church
68035 South Main St., Richmond MI






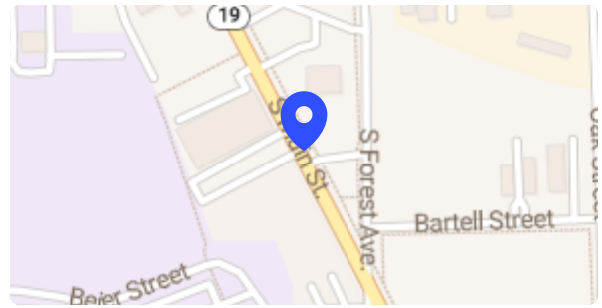
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Cemetery Details

 **St. Michael's Cemetery**
Main St., Richmond MI 48062





Tribute Wall

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DW

Doug Wagner posted:

I am saddened to read of Fr. Francis's passing. I met him while attending Masses he said at The Rivers community when my mother was residing there. I knew right away he was a Godly man. He always gave of himself for the betterment of others, never expecting anything in return. He motivated me to do the same for him, doing my best to help him with TV, printer and phone issues whenever needed. I called him in July to wish him a happy 96th birthday, but sadly he was unable to respond, either due to health or phone issues. Regardless, I took comfort letting him know how fortunate I was to know him and telling him God would prepare a special place for him in Heaven. God Bless you Fr. Francis! You were a very special and unforgettable representative of God. You served Him well, so it is most appropriate you are now enjoying your Heavenly rewards so richly earned down here on Earth. Vaya con Dios my friend!

October 14 at 5:50 PM

PA

Parisioner posted:

May God bless you dear Fr Francis and welcome you into heaven and make you a Saint I just want to share a story about Fr Francis and my daughter Judy and me My daughter bought a Bible for her brother Paul and she said we must get this Bible blessed today ... so then she said I wonder if Fr Francis can bless this Bible for us ... so we drove to the American Heritage place that we knew he was at and asked the receptionist if Fr Francis could bless this Bible for us .. so she made a call to his room and Fr Francis came down and said " I can Bless your Bible but I need to get to The Secretary of State office to get my license changed " and my Judy said " we can take you there in our car " Fr Francis was delighted and Judy and me were also delighted we were going to have a Priest with us in our car ... this had never happened before and we thought of all the blessings and graces we were getting with Fr Francis presence in our car ... this was truly a Holy Moment for us and the visit to the Secretary of State went without any delays (I expected a long wait) but it was clear sailing for him and we returned to his home he was so grateful for us taking him and we were grateful for his presence and for him blessing the Bible for my son Paul ... yay Fr Francis thank you for this most special day in our lives and thank you for all you did for us when we received Holy Eucharist from your Holy hands at Holy Mass ... I believe Fr Francis helped us store up treasures in heaven that day ... we love you and appreciate you Fr Francis

October 14 at 1:00 PM



Tribute Wall

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Deborah Reichenbach posted:

I am saddened to hear of the death of Fr. Francis. I was the secretary at the former St. Athanasius Church in Roseville and he used to sub a lot. I was also a part of the music ministry and we loved him singing the mass. He used to call me Debbiedoo (lol). I also grew up on a farm (in Columbus Twp) and we would talk about farm life and how he would camp in the back of his truck at his sister's to get away from the hustle and bustle. I've been thinking about him lately and wondering how he was doing. The last time I saw him was at Fr. Ed Ritter's funeral (2017) and he called me by my (nick)name right away! I was blessed to be able to talk to him. God Bless you, Fr. Francis. You will always remain a special person to me.

October 9 at 11:36 AM



Heather Stracenerider lit a candle in honor of Francis.



October 9 at 7:59 AM



Cynthia Love posted:

Fr. Francis is my fathers' first cousin. He was like a celebrity when he rolled into North Branch on his motorcycle. He was the coolest priest I had ever met. He solidified my thought of religion being "cool" as a young child. I didn't know him well at all but know that my dad and he were splendid friends. I pray that healing comes quickly for those left behind as I know the love of Jesus Christ is shining upon him. My sincerest condolences. -Cynthia (Weingartz) Love

October 9 at 5:05 AM



Cynthia Love (Bernard Weingartz Fam-Nb) sent a Medium Dish Garden to the Weingartz family.



October 9 at 4:57 AM



Cynthia Love (Bernard Weingartz Fam-Nb) planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Francis.



October 9 at 4:57 AM



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Katelyn posted:

Heartfelt condolences to the Weingartz & Franckowiak families in this time of loss.-Troy School District Maintenance and Grounds Department-

October 9 at 3:48 AM



Anonymous sent a Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum to the Weingartz family.



October 9 at 3:41 AM



Beverly Stempniewski posted:

I was so saddened when I read the obituary of Fr. Francis. I was his secretary when he was pastor at St. Dorothy Church in Warren, 1988-1998. How I remember planning his retirement party, and celebrating with the parish family. He was a great man and friend. He is at peace now at his new home and I am sure he is still singing, his favorite thing to do. Many memories!Beverly Stempniewski

October 8 at 11:40 AM



Mark Fuerstenau posted:

Our condolences to the Weingartz family during this time of loss as we celebrate Father's call home. You are all in our prayers.

October 8 at 7:40 AM



Bill And Marianne Brittain posted:

My wife and I loved having Father Francis with us for a time down at St Charles in Newport. I am a musician there and Father gave me the privilege of accompanying him as he would sing the entire Eucharistic Praye. He was such a joyful person. We miss him but are so thankful that we had the opportunity to worship with him! Rest In Peace Father FrancisBill and Marianne Brittain

October 6 at 4:17 PM



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Arlene Kennedy posted:

I remember Father Weingartz as the priest who married my husband and I at St.Bartholmew church located on Outer Drive in Detroit, Mi., 1963. Rest in peace Father

October 6 at 3:57 PM



Myla Gicain shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

It is such an honor to take part in taking care of you from 2017 to October 2023. You are such a gentle soul and you have influenced me a lot religiously. You always include me and my family in your daily prayers when we ask you to pray for us and those prayers are always answered. You are now in a much better place Fr. Francis. Please continue to pray for all of us.



October 5 at 9:06 AM



Tina Closs lit a candle in honor of Francis.



October 5 at 9:00 AM



Darwin Pepito shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

Such an honor and a joy to the soul to know Fr. Francis since 2019. My wife was among those who took care of him until about November 2023. I love to talk to him and I learned a lot from him about spiritual and moral matters. As a devout Catholic, I always appreciate it every time he blesses me when it's time for me to go. As a physical therapist, I advise him about the things he should and should not do in the matters of physical conditioning, and I'm his default handyman when an item needs fixing. I miss him already but I am a better person spiritually because I got to know Fr. Francis. He finally got his wish because he always said that he really wants to go home ... to his eternal home.



October 5 at 7:43 AM



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Marguerite shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

Working at the Village Of East Harbor as a dietary aide blessed me with the opportunity to serve Father Francis. As everyone knew him as (Father) He Always would say my game when he saw me. Even when his memory started to go. Rip father♥



October 4 at 7:01 PM



Media

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Myla Gicain shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

October 5 at 9:06 AM





Media

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Darwin Pepito shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

October 5 at 7:43 AM





Marguerite shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

October 4 at 7:01 PM





Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Francis by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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