



## Rev. Fr. Bernard Geiger, O.F.M. Conv.

September 26, 1931 - May 27, 2024

Fr. Bernard Geiger, a Conventual Franciscan priest, died on Monday, May 27, 2024, in Saint Mary's Home, Little Sisters of the Poor (Chicago, IL).

Fr. Bernard, the son of William and Eve Geiger, was born in McCook, Nebraska in 1931, one among eight siblings. Inspired with a vocation to religious life, he entered the Franciscan Order immediately following high school, and into a special ministry of the friars at the recently established "Marytown" (Kenosha, Wisconsin) – an apostolate of St. Bonaventure Province (Chicago) and response to St. Maximilian Kolbe's desire to renew the Order by a return to a balance of work and Eucharistic Adoration, devotion to the Blessed Mother, and evangelization through media. Father Bernard's organization and creative writing skills were put to good use as one of the contributors of the Immaculata Magazine a promotional periodical for the Militia of the Immaculata, quoting, St. Maximilian Kolbe, "To win souls for Christ through Mary." Fr. Bernard was later ordained a priest in 1959 after studying in Rome where he also completed a Licentiate in Sacred Theology. Upon returning to the States, he served as Assistant Pastor at St. Anthony's Parish in Rockford, Illinois, until his return to Marytown to serve as Guardian of the Friars and Editor (1972-1994) of the Immaculata Magazine. He was named "National Director of the Militia of the Immaculata" (1973-1985) before being assigned as Chaplain to the Felician Sisters' Motherhouse (Chicago). In 1988, Fr. Bernard became one of two chaplains assisting at Catholic

Familyland (Bloomington, Ohio). With declining health, Fr. Bernard returned to Marytown (Libertyville, IL) in 2020. By early 2024, as his health continued to decline, Fr. Bernard went to the Little Sisters of the Poor nursing facility in Chicago where on May 27, 2024, he died at the age of 92. He was found deceased, kneeling next to his bed in prayer. Visitation will be at the Shrine of St. Maximilian Kolbe in Libertyville, Illinois on Wednesday, June 5, 2024, from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm with a Franciscan Wake Service at 7:00 pm. A Funeral Mass will be held in the same location on the following day, at noon. Interment will take place on Friday, June 7, 2024, at Saint Hedwig Cemetery and Mausoleum, Dearborn Heights, MI. He is survived by younger brothers, Dr. Gerald Geiger, James Geiger, and Paul Geiger, in-laws, and many nephews, nieces, and cousins.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUN 5. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Marytown  
1600 W. Park Avenue  
Libertyville, IL 60048  
<http://www.marytown.com>

## Funeral Mass

JUN 6. 12:00 PM (CT)

Marytown  
1600 W. Park Avenue  
Libertyville, IL 60048  
<http://www.marytown.com>

# Tribute Wall

PG

“ Philip Glatz sent a virtual gift in memory of Rev. Fr. Bernard Geiger, O.F.M. Conv.



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**Philip Glatz** - June 14, 2024 at 03:01 AM

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*My deepest sympathies to Fr. Geiger's family and friends. Fr. Bernard was such a humble and loving priest. When I was a Marytown Volunteer from 1984-1985, he would con-celebrate Mass with Fr. Anselm Romb. He was sickly then, but would never complain, rather he would offer his suffering up for others. He set the example for all of us, volunteers and Clergy alike. I always admired his deep and silent spirituality. How appropriate was it that he died while kneeling in prayer. He will always be greatly loved and missed. Rest in peace Fr. Bernard!*

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**Philip Glatz** - June 14, 2024 at 03:09 AM

SK

“ Rest in peace in God's Eternal Light and Love! 🙏



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**Sr. Theresa Kovacs** - May 30, 2024 at 04:37 PM

SK

“ *What a beautiful, holy priest!  
I knew him years ago when I was I was  
discerning my vocation at a retreat in  
Marytown. He was so dedicated to Our Lady  
and the promotion of the MI.*

*I recall he wrote a beautiful song about St. Maximilian Kolbe and the  
Immaculate.*

*The fact that he was found deceased kneeling in prayer is a tribute  
to his exemplary life. May he rest in praying God's Eternal Light and  
Love!*



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**Sr. Theresa Kovacs** - May 30, 2024 at 04:36 PM