



Fr. Luke Frank Poczworowski

January 10, 2018

Father Luke (Richard) Poczworowski, 80, passed away on Wed. Jan. 10, 2018 in Chicago. He was born Dec. 16, 1937 on the southeast side of Chicago. In the summers of 1953-54, he worked as a gas station attendant and fixed flat tires. He graduated from Mount Carmel High School in 1955 and subsequently entered the Novitiate in August at Lake Forest, IL.

Father Luke made his first profession in 1956 and professed his solemn Vows on Aug. 15, 1959. He studied in Carey, Ohio and received his Bachelors Degree from Dayton University. He was then sent for theological studies at Assumption Seminary in Chaska, MN. He was one of ten Franciscans and twenty-five diocesan seminarians who were ordained priests on Feb. 22, 1964, at the Cathedral of St. Paul in MN. In 1969, after several summers of study, Father Luke received a Masters Degree in religious education from Loyola University in Chicago.

As a member of the Province of St. Bonaventure, Father Luke's ministry has entailed the following assignments: Parish priest at St. Anthony of Padua Parish, Rockford; Vocation Director at the House of Studies, Formation Director for the Province; Chaplain of the Felician Sisters in Chicago at which time he also taught religion at an all girls catholic high school; Parish priest at St. Mary of the Assumption Parish in Fort Madison, IA; Pastor of Holy Family Parish, Peoria; two term Minister Provincial; Pastor of St. Anthony Padua Parish, Rockford; Pastor of St. Mary, Winona; St. John the Baptist, Lostant and St. Patrick, Minonk, St. Ann, Toluca and Sacred Heart, Rutland. Fr. Luke

was in residence at the Basilica of St. Josaphat, Milwaukee, WI.

Father Luke's greatest joy as a Franciscan Priest was celebrating the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. He has spread that joy among parishioners he has served over the years and also had a great love for the Franciscan camaraderie and fraternity. Father Luke was indeed a "People Person" from the word, "go!" and an extremely generous soul as well! He was indeed a "Gift" to the Friars!

Surviving are many confreres, family and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents, Stanley and Mary Poczworowski.

Visitation will be from 4 to 8 pm with a wake service at 8 pm Friday, Jan. 19, 2018 at St. Ita's Church, 5500 N. Broadway St. Chicago. Visitation will begin at 9:30am, before Mass at 11 am Sat. Jan. 20, 2018 at St. Michael the Archangel Church, 8237 South Shore Drive, Chicago. Interment will follow at Holy Cross Cemetery in Calumet City. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to St. Bonaventure Province, 6107 N. Kenmore Ave. Chicago, IL 60660. Arrangements are by the Burnett-Dane Funeral Home in Libertyville. Info: 847-362-3009 or please sign the on-line guest book at www.burnettdane.com.

Tribute Wall

ES

“ We have been blessed to have had the opportunity to enjoy the richness and endearing joy of loving Fr. Luke. Rest In Peace Father and Rise in Glory!

Ed and Sheila Sola - June 29, 2018 at 11:29 AM

MF

“ So sad but he is joining his boss who is god and his mom all friends relatives that fr luke said funeral mass for again heartbroken

Marilyn Fischl - June 29, 2018 at 11:29 AM

MS

“ My sincere Condolences to Fr Luke's family.. He will always be remembered as The Polish Prince..As children growing up in south rockford, we were so blessed to have Fr. Luke. The memories the Sola family , as well as all the other families have will never be forgotten.Rest in Peace with the Angels,Our Polish Prince!!!Love,Stella -Della. (My nickname given to me by Fr Luke as a little girl)Mj Sola

Mary Jane Sola-Bousum - June 29, 2018 at 11:29 AM

LG

“ I am so honored to be able to call you brother. You were the best big brother ever. I will miss our chats so much. You kept me so grounded. I loved reminiscing about our Dad with you. Now you are together in heaven. Nothing will fill this huge hole in my heart until we meet again. I love you so much Big Brother. Your Loving Little Sister,Lynda Geith

Lynda Geith - June 29, 2018 at 11:29 AM

CG

“ My dear Father Luke. Your smile and good humor made such a difference in our lives. You joined Arlene and Mike Sulski, baptized their kids Zachary and Carly, you joined me and the bunny as well! We are all spiritually richer in our lives for having known you. May you Rest In Peace Father Luke! ?

Christopher Garcia - April 27, 2018 at 03:58 AM

KM

“ What a light he was to so many people. His passion for the church and people will never be forgotten. so many lives he touched. Always his blessings will be remembered and our talks at the flower shop in Minonk. Thanks for being a part of my life.

Kay Monge - April 27, 2018 at 03:58 AM

BB

“ I have fond memories of Fr. Luke as our Chaplain on Peterson Ave. at Mother of Good Counsel Motherhouse. My prayers are with the Fiars and his family. Rest In Peace, dear Fr. Luke

Barbara Badalewski - April 27, 2018 at 03:58 AM

VB

“ We just talked a few weeks back. He married us and was our favorite Priest bar none. Please tell me this isn't true. I just talked to him on his 80th birthday. Years ago, I unsuccessfully petitioned the Rockford Diocese to keep him in Rockford at St. Anthony Church where he wanted to remain. I wrote the \$10,000 Illinois State grant for the decorative street lamps around St. Anthony's that led to the Memory Garden of children's statues. He was so helpful and wonderful to work with on that project and we had such fun. I addressed a crowd about the grant in the soon-to-be created garden that was his idea and that he made happen. He cracked everyone up at our wedding and at our rehearsal...especially my German heritage family on my husband's side, who were all visiting from out of town and Lutheran. They had never experienced someone like Father Luke, that's for sure! The extra sprinkles of holy water on me and the way he announced us at the end of our wedding ceremony to the wedding guests as "Mr. and Mrs. David DeBeccue" - since I kept my last name of DeCastris and he just HAD to make fun of this - had the huge church crowd in stitches. He really loved the Italian community and they loved him. And he loved their food. There was no better polka dancer, friend of South Rockford and the Italian community and fun Priest. God love him and keep him and may he rest in peace. Now he is with his family, especially his mother and aunt who he looked after so well. Rockford, Milwaukee and Chicago and the Catholic community have lost a real gem. There will never be another Father Luke anywhere! We loved him. We were planning to go to Polish Fest in Milwaukee together this summer....so very very sad.

Valeri and David DeCastris Beccue - April 27, 2018 at 03:58 AM

JD

“ *Father Luke loved St. Anthony Parish and everyone there..as well as south Rockford.We have fond memories of our parents' 50th wedding Anniversary gathering thathe celebrated along with all of us..his love of life could always be seen in his laughter.God be with you always Father Luke.*

Janie & Mario DeCastris - April 27, 2018 at 03:58 AM

JS

“ *Father Luke, my brother in Christ, my confessor and my friend,I was so shocked to hear of your passing as I was hoping you would have made our 50th seminary reunion planned for this September in Crystal LAke, IL. You were my confessor when young and a seminarian and we remained friends for our entire lives. You loved the Lord, your calling and your ministry. You were a part of so many memories in my life and that of my family.*

John Sparacino - April 27, 2018 at 03:58 AM

TL

“ *Reading others' comments, I am struck by how he touched so many in the same way he touched me. We are all children of "father" Luke. A man of God. A man of the people. A man loved by so many. Pax et bonum.*

Tom Luchetti - April 27, 2018 at 03:58 AM

GB

“ *We will miss Father Luke. He performed our marriage in 1980 and we think of him often. He was a wonderful person he even came to our son's baptism. Luke had a great sense of humor and empathy for everyone. He will be missed by everyone.*

Gail & Gary Borgerd - April 27, 2018 at 03:58 AM



“ To all Fr.Lukes family and friends I'm sorry for your loss.I grew up in south Chicago as he did ,I was 3 years older than he was .and when to St.Michaels Grammer school together.I had a brother who was a Priest for 72 yrs and entered Gods kingdom 4'years ago. Few years back we met up with him when his aunt died.Fr always was a HAPPY FRIAR. And so much fun to be around.When you see my brother (MSGR MROCZKOWSKI he'll ask you to Join his choir. Your Aunt sang in his choir.Rest In Peace Fr. Luke(Rich)Eternal rest grant unto you and let Perpetual light shine upon you.

.Mary (Mroczkowski) Lewandowski - April 27, 2018 at 03:58 AM



“ Rest in peace good & faithful Priest of God.Spej Z Bogiem....Ed DyklaPres. Emeritus PRCU ABoynton Beach Fl.

April 27, 2018 at 03:58 AM