



Fr. Gregory Kwapisz

September 26, 1933 - August 17, 2013

The Reverend Gregory Kwapisz, OFM Conv., died peacefully in his sleep at St. Hyacinth Senior Friars Residence, Chicopee, MA on August 17, 2013. He was 79. Born Mieczyslaw Kwapisz in Buffalo, NY on September 26, 1933, son of the late Martin and Walerja (Stando) Kwapisz, he took the name Gregory upon entry into the Novitiate of the Franciscan Friars Conventual. He completed his Novitiate at St. Lawrence Friary in Becket, MA, 1952-53. He professed his Simple Vows as a Franciscan Friar on August 15, 1953, and his Solemn Vows on August 15, 1956. He was Ordained to the Priesthood by Aloysius Cardinal Traglia at Circo Agonali, Rome, Italy, on July 10, 1960. Father Gregory attended St. Bonaventure University (B.A. Philosophy), the Pontifical College of St. Bonaventure, Rome (S.T.B. Theology), Canisius College (M.A. English) and the State University of New York (M.Ed.). Many of Father Gregory's early ministerial assignments were in high schools. He served as teacher at Archbishop Curley High School, Baltimore, MD from 1961-62, at Fr. Baker High School, Lackawanna, NY from 1962-66, at St. Francis High School, Athol Springs, NY from 1966-67. He also taught at Bishop Ryan High School from 1967-69 and at Archbishop Curley High School from 1969-76. From 1977-79 Father Gregory was the editor of the English edition of the *Messaggero Magazine*, Padua, Italy. Father Gregory was the Campus Minister of Villa Maria College from 1979-81. He served as Chaplain at Danville State Hospital, Danville, PA from 1981-90. From 1990-93 he served as Parochial Vicar at St. Francis Parish, Athol Springs, and from

1993-2003 as Parochial Vicar at Corpus Christi Parish, Buffalo, NY. Father Gregory was predeceased by his parents and brother, +Fr. Eugene Kwapisz, OFM Conv., brother Henry, and sisters, Irene Hernik, Helen Zygmunt and Jenny Napierala. He is survived by his sisters, Genevieve Lewandowski and Wanda Reipold, as well as several nieces and nephews. There will be a Memorial Mass on Monday, August 19 at Noon in St. Stanislaus Basilica, Chicopee, MA, followed by a wake in the church and concluding with Franciscan Vespers at 7 PM. His remains will then be transported to Buffalo, NY, where he will be waked at St. Francis Church, Athol Springs, on Wednesday, August 21 from 3-7 PM. A Franciscan Vesper Service will take place at 7 PM. The Funeral Mass will be held in the Church on Thursday, August 22 at 11 AM, with burial following in St. Stanislaus Cemetery, Cheektowaga, NY. Donations may be made to the Franciscan Education Burse, 12300 Folly Quarter Rd., Ellicott City, MD 21042. Gannon Funeral Home, Lackawanna, is handling arrangements.

Previous Events

Service

AUG 19. 12:00 PM (ET)

St. Stanislaus Basilica_
566 Front St.
Chicopee, MA

Service

AUG 19. 12:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

St. Stanislaus Basilica_
566 Front St.
Chicopee, MA

Service

AUG 19. 7:00 PM (ET)

St. Stanislaus Basilica_
566 Front St.
Chicopee, MA