



## Fr. Lucjan Krolikowski OFM Conv.

September 7, 1919 - October 11, 2019

Fr. Lucjan Krolikowski, OFM Conv. was born on September 7, 1919 in Nowe Kramsko, Poland, and died on October 11, 2019 at Our Lady of the Angels Care Center, Enfield, CT. He was the third child of Stanislaw and Victoria (Tomiak) Krolikowski. He leaves his Franciscan family and many related family members and friends in Poland, Canada, and the United States. At the time of his death he was 100 years old and the oldest Conventual Friar in the world. Fr. Lucjan's long Franciscan life began in 1934 when he entered the Franciscan Friar Conventual Seminary which was located on the grounds of the world's largest friary in Niepokalanow, Poland. Its guardian was the future saint, Fr. Maximilian Kolbe, who was later canonized by Pope John Paul II. Fr. Lucjan completed high school at the seminary and later made his Novitiate in Niepokalanow (City of the Immaculate), professing his Simple Vows on August 29, 1939, where Fr. Maximilian Kolbe was present. He completed his philosophy studies in 1939 from the University of Lwow. While preparing to begin his theological studies in June of 1940, he was arrested by the Russian police (NKVD, later named KGB) and deported to a concentration camp in eastern Ukraine. He was liberated from the concentration camp and later joined the Polish army, completing Artillery school for Cadet Officers in Uzbekistan. He was moved with the Polish army to Iraq in 1942, and since the army needed chaplains, he began his theological studies in 1943 in Beirut, Lebanon. Fr. Lucjan made his Solemn Vows on July 14, 1945 in Beirut, and was ordained to the priesthood on June 30, 1946 at the University of St.

Joseph in Beirut, where he also received an S.T.B. (Theology) that same year. Returning to the army after ordination to the priesthood, Fr. Lucjan served the VIII General Military Hospital in El-Kantar, Egypt. After demobilization in 1947 he became the high school prefect in the Polish Refugee camp in Tengeru, near Mount Kilimanjaro. With a civilian population of 4,000 (half of whom were children) Fr. Lucjan volunteered to accompany these orphans through Europe and onto Canada which became their permanent home. Once in Montreal, Fr. Lucjan started placing children in French schools through the Province of Quebec. His first book, "Stolen Childhood," recounts the unusual experiences and travels with the children. During his ministerial life, Fr. Lucjan served as Associate Pastor (1958-1964) and Pastor (1964-1966) of Our Lady of Czestochowa Church, Montreal, Canada. In addition, he also served as Guardian of the parish Friary during his pastoral years. He became the Secretary of the Fr. Justin Rosary Hour (the longest running radio show in Polish outside of Poland), Athol Springs, NY from 1966-1998. Accepting a new ministry in 1999 he served as Parochial Vicar at St. Stanislaus Basilica, Chicopee, MA until 2009. In 2009 Fr Lucjan continued his life's work as Confessor and Spiritual Advisor, St. Hyacinth Friary in Chicopee. In 2016 he became Confessor and Spiritual Advisor, Our Lady of the Angels Care Center, Enfield, CT, where he continued to be in contact with his many family members and friends until his death. Fr. Lucjan has authored five books, and had written hundreds of talks for the Fr. Justin Rosary Hour radio program.

1. Skradzione Dzieciństwo: Polskie dzieci na tułaczym szlaku 1939-1950,

[Also translated into English with title Stolen childhood]

2. Pamiętnik sybiraka i tułacza

[Also translated into English with the title A Franciscan Odyssey]

3. Miłość mi wszystko wyjaśniła: Przygody ducha

4. Modlitwy chorych [2 volumes]

5. Abba – Ojciec: Przemyslenia Sybiraka i Tulacza

Fr. Lucian has been awarded and honored by:

1. The Polonia Restituta (The Merit Cross of the knight of Liberated Poland) 1961
2. Veterans Gold Cross by the Polish Combatant of Canada (1969)
3. Meritorious Gold Medal from the Polish Canadian Congress for his works on behalf of Canadian Polonia (1974)
4. In November 11, 2007 he was honored at the Presidential Belvidere Palace in Warsaw for his efforts in saving orphaned children after World War II, The Third-Degree Award Komandozski Cross of Polonia Resituta Ozdea.
5. Honored by the European Veterans Conference (1972)
6. He received the highest degrees of the Scout movement, Harcerz Rzeczpospolitej
  
7. In September 2019 he was given a certificate from the President of Poland at a Mass in New Britain, CT.

Fr. Lucjan will lie in state at St. Stanislaus Basilica, 566 Front St., Chicopee, on Monday, October 14, 2019 from 2-7PM, concluding with a Franciscan Transitus Service at 7PM. On Tuesday, October 15, 2019 a Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 11AM, with interment following in St. Stanislaus Cemetery, Chicopee. Memorial Donations may be made to the Franciscan Education Burse, 12300 Folly Quarter Road, Ellicott City, MD 21042.

# Cemetery Details

## St. Stanislaus Cemetery

800 Montgomery St.  
Chicopee , MA 01013

# Previous Events

## Lie in State

OCT **14**. 2:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

St. Stanislaus Basilica\_  
566 Front St.  
Chicopee, MA

## Service

OCT **14**. 7:00 PM (ET)

St. Stanislaus Basilica\_  
566 Front St.  
Chicopee, MA

## Mass

OCT **15**. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Stanislaus Basilica\_  
566 Front St.  
Chicopee, MA



# Tribute Wall

BS

“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



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**Bronislaw Staworowski** - October 23, 2019 at 01:44 PM