



Fr. Peter Damian Fehlner OFM Conv.

July 20, 1931 - May 8, 2018

Fr. Peter Damian Fehlner, OFM Conv., was born in Dolgeville, NY on July 20, 1931 and passed away on May 8, 2018. He was a son of the late Herman and Mary Elizabeth (Considine) Fehlner. In addition to his Franciscan family he leaves his brothers Francis Fehlner, Thomas Fehlner, and William Fehlner. His brother James Fehlner predeceased him in 2009. Father Peter Damian entered the Franciscan Friars Conventual Novitiate in Middleburg, NY on August 12, 1951. He professed his Simple Vows on August 17, 1952, and his Solemn Vows on November 1, 1955. He was ordained to the priesthood on July 14, 1957 at the Basilica of St. Alessio in Rome, Italy. An avid scholar, he received a Doctoral Degree (S.T.D.) from the Seraphicum (Rome) in 1959. His exceptional dissertation was entitled "The Role of Charity in the Ecclesiology of St. Bonaventure." He became regarded as one of the world's leading experts on the writings and theology of St. Bonaventure. He was assigned to St. Boniface Parish in Montreal as Assistant Pastor in 1959 for one year. Over the next 25 years, Fr. Peter Damian taught dogmatic theology at St. Anthony-on-Hudson Theological Seminary, Rensselaer, NY. While there he served as the Rector and Guardian from 1970-1976. He also served as the Librarian for the Seminary and during his tenure the theological library became a world-class collection. Through the years he also held a position on the Pontifical Faculty of St. Bonaventure in the Seraphicum, Rome, Italy. In 1984, Fr. Peter Damian moved to Casa Kolbe in Rome, where he became the Assistant International Director of the Militia Immaculata, and editor of Miles

Immaculatae. In this post he became renowned as a speaker at conferences, retreats, symposia, and media events – activities which would continue for the remainder of his life. In the mid-1990's, Fr. Peter Damian transfiliated to the Franciscans of the Immaculate, a religious congregation with its origins in the Conventual Franciscans. As a friar, he continued his ministry of teaching and writing. In 2015, Fr. Peter Damian returned to his original religious Order of Friars Minor Conventual, re-professing his Solemn Vows as a humble follower of St. Francis of Assisi. Fr. Peter Damian's scholarly genius was recognized by academics at Notre Dame University, South Bend, IN in 2015, at a symposium dedicated to his theological writings. A Festschrift is being published in his honor this year, at the same time as the 6-volume critical edition of the Collected Writings of Fr. Peter Damian Fehlner, OFM Conv. is being carefully redacted. In 2016, the Mariological Society of America bestowed upon Fr. Peter Damian its highest accolade The Cardinal Wright Award. Fr. Peter Damian will lie in state at the Basilica of St. Stanislaus, Bishop and Martyr, 566 Front St., Chicopee, MA, Thursday, May 10 from 3-8 PM, followed by a Franciscan Wake Service. On Friday, May 11, a Mass of Christian Burial will be held at St. Stanislaus Basilica, at 11AM. Visitation will take place from 9-10:45AM. He will be buried at St. Stanislaus Cemetery, Chicopee, MA. Memorial donations may be made to the Franciscan Education Burse, 12300 Folly Quarter Rd., Ellicott City, MD 21042.

Cemetery Details

St. Stanislaus Cemetery-

800 Montgomery St.
Chicopee, MA

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 10. 3:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

St. Stanislaus Basilica_
566 Front St.
Chicopee, MA

Service

MAY 10. 8:00 PM (ET)

St. Stanislaus Basilica_
566 Front St.
Chicopee, MA

Visitation

MAY 11. 9:00 AM - 10:45 AM (ET)

St. Stanislaus Basilica_
566 Front St.
Chicopee, MA

Mass

MAY 11. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Stanislaus Basilica_
566 Front St.
Chicopee, MA

Tribute Wall

MK

“*Father Fehlner gave us a glimpse of Heaven on this Earth. No words can truly explain his genuine love, kindness and humility. Father Peter Damian's reflection was that of Sweet Jesus and Our Blessed Mother. Confessions with Father Fehlner were so loving they would make you weep.*

My husband would say often his voice sounded like that of Elijah. Story I would like to share about the wisdom of children and Father Fehlner. While we were all at the Friary in Griswold Connecticut and when parents would bring there little ones there, I witnessed the most amazing interaction between Father Fehlner and a beautiful two year old little girl.

The little toddler was dressed in her best Christmas looking dress, white tights and patented leather black shoes..Father Fehlner and several other Franciscan Friars were there with us all having lunch. When Father Fehlner walked by this little one, she stopped turned her little body, movements like that of a little soldier and did a full perfect bow facing Father Peter Damian Fehlner. Have grandchildren and have been with many little ones but have never seen any child react like that to any other person.

We were all highly blessed to have him in our lives. Truly grateful the Good Lord gave us the privilege of knowing him. Doubly blessed are his earthly biological family and the Franciscans he helped father,

Mary Kriz T.O.P.

Mary Kriz - May 12, 2018 at 03:49 PM

ZR

“ Thank you very much for all the guidance you’ve given me in good times and in challenging moments!!!



Zenaida Rivera - May 10, 2018 at 01:45 PM

ZR

“ Ave Maria!

Fr. Peter, I am so grateful to God and the Blessed Mother for having known you, admonished by you, learned your virtues and experienced the taste of heaven whenever I listened to your homilies!!! We’re blessed by you! God bless your holy soul!!!! Please continue to pray for me.



Zenaida Rivera - May 10, 2018 at 01:41 PM

TP

“ Thomas Potochick lit a candle in memory of Fr. Peter Damian Fehlner OFM Conv.



Thomas Potochick - May 10, 2018 at 10:14 AM

TP

Thank you for bringing me back to God. You are truly a Saint.

Thomas Potochick - May 10, 2018 at 01:02 PM

FF

“ *Fr. Matthias M. Sasko, FI lit a candle in memory of Fr. Peter Damian Fehlner OFM Conv.*



Fr. Matthias M. Sasko, FI - May 10, 2018 at 08:53 AM

RW

“ *Rev. Jean Waldron lit a candle in memory of Fr. Peter Damian Fehlner OFM Conv.*



Rev. Jean Waldron - May 10, 2018 at 08:22 AM

RW

Thank you, Fr. Peter, for being a faithful follower of Jesus and Mary. May your love for them live on in our hearts!

Rev. Jean Waldron - May 10, 2018 at 08:23 AM

SF

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Sister M. Ancilla FSGM - May 09, 2018 at 08:31 PM

FL

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Fr. John Francesco Maria Lim - May 09, 2018 at 04:29 PM

MW

My first impression netting Father Peter, and my last impression of Father Peter... A holy Marian priest through and through. Thank you for bring the Immaculate to us all!

Marie Wynn - May 10, 2018 at 12:39 PM

AB

“ *Formulo atitolo personale e a nome della mia comunità le più sentite condoglianze alla famiglia di P. Pierdamiano Fehlner. Conservo un grato ricordo di lui e sono sicuro che sarà un potente intercessore dal Cielo. La sua pasqua definitiva coincide con l'8 maggio giorno della supplica della Madonna del rosario di Pompei e dell'apparizione di S. Michele al Gargano. P. Alfonso M. A. Bruno e comunità FI Sicilia*



Alfonso Bruno - May 09, 2018 at 04:24 PM

FL

“ *Fr. John Francesco Maria Lim lit a candle in memory of Fr. Peter Damian Fehlner OFM Conv.*



Fr. John Francesco Maria Lim - May 09, 2018 at 04:24 PM