



Rev. William J. Wargel

November 14, 1939 - July 1, 2015

Rev. William J. Wargel, 75, passed away unexpectedly on July 1 2015, while attending a conference in St. Louis, MO, with several brother priests of the Diocese of Evansville.

He was born in Evansville on Nov. 14, 1939, to the late Charles F. and Olivia (Ritzert) Wargel. The family attended Sacred Heart Parish in Evansville, and Bill attended Sacred Heart Catholic School, graduating in 1953. He attended high school, college and theological seminary at St. Meinrad Archabbey, graduating in 1957, 1961 and 1965, respectively.

Bishop Henry J. Grimmelsman of Evansville ordained him to the priesthood on May 27, 1965. He began his priestly ministry on the faculty of Magister Noster Latin School. He later served on the faculty of Reitz Memorial High school, and also served as director of Memorial's ministry program.

Father Wargel served a number of parishes across the diocese, including St. Joseph in Jasper as assistant (appointed in June of 1969), Holy Spirit in Evansville as associate pastor (appointed in August of 1973), St. Clement in Boonville as pastor (appointed in July of 1980), Holy Redeemer in Evansville as pastor (appointed in July of 1986) and St. Ferdinand in Ferdinand as pastor (appointed in March of 1999). He also served a three-year term as Dean of the diocese's Newburgh Deanery, and served on the diocese's Priests Senate

and Council of Priests. He retired from active priestly ministry in November 2004.

Family and scores of friends from across the diocese gathered May 24 at Holy Redeemer Parish in Evansville for a Jubilee Mass and reception in honor of his 50th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood.

He is survived by three brothers: Charlie (Beverly) Wargel of Saginaw, MI, Tom (Rose Mary) Wargel of Louisville, KY and Dr. James (Pauline) Wargel of Rochester Hills, MI; three nieces, Jean Wargel, Emily (Jake) Lomax and Carmen (Dr. Ryan) Wargel Fringer, two nephews, Mike Wargel and Jeff Wargel, two grandnieces, Amelia Fringer and Morgan Lomax and two grandnephews, Samuel Fringer and Peyton Lomax.

There will be a Mass of Christian Burial held at 10:00 A.M. on Wednesday, July 8, 2015 at Holy Redeemer Catholic Church, 918 W. Mill Road, Evansville, IN 47710, with Very Rev. Bernie Etienne, Vicar General of the Diocese of Evansville, as principal celebrant. Interment will follow in the Priest's Circle at St. Joseph Cemetery.

Friends may visit with the family from 2:00 until 8:00 P.M. on Tuesday at Pierre Funeral Home, 2601 W. Franklin Street, where there will be a memorial service conducted by the church at 7:00 P.M. Friends may also visit with the family from 9:00 A.M. until service time on Wednesday at Holy Redeemer Catholic Church.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Reitz Memorial High School, 1500 Lincoln Ave, Evansville, IN 47714, to the Olivia Ritzert Wargel Endowment, for library improvements at Westside Catholic School, c/o the Catholic Foundation of Southwestern Indiana, 4200 N. Kentucky Ave, Evansville, IN 47724 or to the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinsons

Research, Grand Central Station, P.O. Box 4777, New York, NY 10163-4777.

Condolences may be made online at www.pierrefuneralhome.com.

Cemetery Details

St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery

2500 Mesker Park Drive
Evansville, IN

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 7. 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Pierre Funeral Home
2601 West Franklin Street
Evansville, IN 47712
(812) 423-6471
info@pierrefuneralhome.com
<https://www.pierrefuneralhome.com>

Visitation

JUL 8. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (CT)

Holy Redeemer Catholic Church
918 West Mill Road
Evansville, IN

funeral

JUL 8. 10:00 AM (CT)

Holy Redeemer Catholic Church
918 West Mill Road
Evansville, IN

Tribute Wall



“ *Rev. William J. Wargel*

January 16, 2023 at 06:53 PM



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



Elizabeth Field - July 09, 2015 at 04:08 PM



From left to right the Boonville Pastoral Team, St. Clement Parish: Fr. Bill Wargel, Srs. Mary Mundy, Ann Norman and Elizabeth Field

Elizabeth Overstreet Field - July 09, 2015 at 04:12 PM



“ *Charlie, Tom and Jim, I was blessed to have Bill as a friend many years ago at Sacred Heart and St. Meinrad. Your family was such and example and blessing not only for Bill but many of us who knew you in our formative years. Bill was a wonderful priest who blessed many throughout his life. Thanks to him and to your family for gracing us.*

May he rest in peace. I am sorry that I am not in Evansville so I could say good-bye.

John Blankenberger

John Blankenberger - July 08, 2015 at 04:23 PM

PM

“ *Father Bill was an outstanding communicator and we loved him and enjoyed his sermons so much. He even did a home Mass for us when we celebrated our 25th Anniversary of our marriage many years ago. He was a blessing to many and his book was also so well done. Great man...now in heaven...God bless all who knew him! Sincerely, Pat Murray*

Pat Murray - July 07, 2015 at 07:40 PM

EF

“ *My sympathy to all of Fr. Bill's family as he will be greatly missed, I am sure. Bill was one of the two best pastors I ever worked with - as a Director of Religious Education or principal. I worked with him at St. Clements in Boonville for several years, and have great memories of those years. Bill was ahead of his time - so collaborative, trying to implement the Vatican II Council in the parish and in forming us as a "team"! He did a good job at both! He was a good listener and homilist, a supportive and encouraging leader, and such fun to work with! I know Bill is enjoying his "New Home" and still aiding all those he cared about - family and Church. Peace, Bill! Elizabeth Field*

Elizabeth Field - July 07, 2015 at 04:40 PM

PP

“ *He was a most beautiful soul and a wonderful priest! He will be greatly missed!*

Pamela Pelzel - July 07, 2015 at 01:34 PM

AD

“ I love Father Bill! He baptized my two daughters. I cried when he left HR. May the skiing in Heaven be the BEST ever! I will forever cherish my copy of his autographed book.



May Eternal Rest Be Granted Unto Him, Oh Lord, and May Perpetual Light Shine Upon Him. May His Soul, and the Souls of All the Faithful Departed, Through the Mercy of God, Rest in Peace. Amen.

Angie Day - July 07, 2015 at 09:36 AM



“ Health Nut Basket was purchased for the family of Rev. William J. Wargel.



July 06, 2015 at 07:54 PM

KS

“ In assisting Fr. Bill with RCIA at St. Ferdinand I learned a tremendous amount of knowledge about my faith as he and I worked together. He made me a stronger Christian. I continue to pass along his learnings every year. He was a true teacher and was a blessing to have known him. Peace, Fr. Bill!



Ken Sicard - July 06, 2015 at 02:18 PM



“ *Father Bill always had great sermons he will be missed*

Ryan Kempf - July 06, 2015 at 12:40 PM

LW

“ *Fr. Bill was a wonderful priest and teacher. We learned much from his homilies when he was a pastor at St Ferdinand! He was very passionate about life and his faith!*

Linda and Paul Weyer - July 06, 2015 at 11:38 AM

LW

“ *Linda And Paul Weyer lit a candle in memory of Rev. William J. Wargel*



Linda and Paul Weyer - July 06, 2015 at 11:34 AM

JD

“ *Sincere sympathy from the "Rough River" group from Jasper. so many good memories of our good times together. We will always remember Fr. Bill and his friendship.*

Jim Dirttmer - July 06, 2015 at 09:04 AM

JD

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



Jim Dirttmer - July 06, 2015 at 08:59 AM



The "Rough River" group.

Marilyn Dittmer - July 06, 2015 at 09:10 AM