



Fr. DePaul A. Ripko, OFM Cap.

September 10, 1926 - July 29, 2016

Fr. DePaul Ripko, O.F.M. Cap., died on July 29, 2016, in Pittsburgh, PA. He was 89.

He was born in Nizna Mysla, Czechoslovakia, on September 10, 1926, to Joseph and Elizabeth (Potocky). Given the name Anthony at his baptism, he was their only child.

Anthony and his mother emigrated to the United States in 1937 and settled in Slovan, PA. They were members of Our Lady of Lourdes parish in Burgettstown, and Anthony attended the public elementary school in Slovan. He graduated from St. Fidelis High School Seminary in 1945. On July 13, 1947, he was admitted to the Capuchin novitiate and was given the name DePaul. The young Capuchin friar professed his first vows on 14 July 1948, and his perpetual vows three years later. After completing philosophy studies in Herman, PA, he studied theology at Capuchin College in Washington, DC. Father DePaul was ordained to the priesthood on June 6, 1953.

After completing his theological studies, Father DePaul's first priestly assignment was at St. Augustine Parish in Pittsburgh as parochial vicar for one year, after which he was transferred to St. Charles Borromeo Church in St. Louis.

In 1957 he was transferred to Cumberland, MD, where he served as pastor at St. Stephen Parish in Grantsville and St. Ann in Avilton, MD. The next year he was named parochial vicar of SS. Peter and Paul Parish in Cumberland.

Three years later he returned to western Pennsylvania, where he would

remain in various assignments for the rest of his life. He began the first of two pastorates at St. Joseph Church in North Oakland in 1962. In addition to his parish responsibilities he was an instructor at St. Fidelis Seminary High School and served as confessor to the young friars studying philosophy. In 1971 he moved to Beaver County and became the pastor of St. Cecilia Church in Rochester, and six years later he was named pastor of Our Lady of Peace Church in Conway.

He returned to North Oakland for his second stint as pastor in 1981, where he would remain for fourteen years. He retired from full-time active ministry in 1995 and resided at St. Mary Friary in Herman. Father DePaul continued to celebrate Mass and preach at various parishes on an as-needed basis until 2010. For a number of years he assisted at a Florida parish during the winter months.

In 2012 deteriorating health and the need for regular medical attention required Father DePaul to move to St. Augustine Friary in Pittsburgh, where he remained for the rest of his life.

Father DePaul was a zealous and devoted pastor. He loved his parishioners wherever he was stationed and was regarded as a "people's priest." He fostered numerous vocations to the religious life and priesthood throughout his Capuchin life. A man of resolute conviction, he was never attracted to or intimidated by passing fads. Father DePaul was always loyal to the Catholic Church and proud of his Slovakian heritage. He was a talented administrator, gentle pastor and compassionate confessor.

His body will be received at St. Augustine Friary (221 36th Street, Pittsburgh, PA), with visitation on Monday, August 1, in the friary chapel from 2PM to 4PM and 7PM to 9PM. The Prayer Vigil will be at 8PM.

On Tuesday, August 2, viewing and visitation will be from 9AM to 10:30AM at St. Mary Church in Butler (Herman), PA.

The Mass of Christian Burial will be at 11AM in St. Mary Church in Herman. Burial will follow immediately in the Friars' Plot of St. Mary Cemetery.

Professional Services by D'Alessandro Funeral Home and Crematory Ltd.,

Lawrenceville

Donations in honor of Father DePaul may be made to the Capuchin Friars,
220 37th Street, Pittsburgh, PA, 15201.

Cemetery Details

St. Mary's Cemetery - Herman

821 Herman Rd.
Butler, PA 16002

Tribute Wall



“ *Fr. DePaul A. Ripko, OFM Cap.*

January 13, 2023 at 04:43 PM



“ *+Gospa, The Lord Bless You And Keep You. The Lord Let His Face Shine Upon You And Be Gracious To You. The Lord Lift Up His Countenance To You And Grant You Perpetual Rest In The Blessing And Love Of GOD. Pocivaj u miru. g.michael rozman. +*

g.michael rozman - October 20, 2022 at 06:46 AM

RC

“ Heartfelt condolences to Father DePaul's family.

Father DePaul was my Religion Class teacher during my freshman high school year at St. Fidelis as a young seminarian. That was in 1965, and here we are 51 years later and I vividly remember him as if I had seen him only yesterday.

What I remember most about him was his in your face honesty and that is a true compliment. Father was not known to us seminarians as someone who would hold back exactly what he wanted to say or felt he had to say. We laughed at him on many occasions when he spoke bluntly about parishioners of his, or acquaintances with whom he had a disagreement. This brought to us the human side of him and that quality endeared him to us.

I had the good fortune of attending a Mass at which he officiated in the absence of our Pastor about 10 years ago, and we had a chance to talk at length after the Mass. As always he was open and genuine and made me feel like the most important person in the world to him at that moment. I know he will be sorely missed and I will offer Masses for the repose of his soul. May God rest him!

Ralph Camus

Ralph Camus - August 13, 2016 at 07:30 PM