



Fr. Bertin Miller OFM

May 15, 1936 - February 14, 2024

FATHER BERTIN (WILLIAM) MILLER, O.F.M.
1936-2024

Fr. Bertin (William) Miller, O.F.M. died on February 14, 2023 at Mercy Hospital South in Saint Louis County.

William Ellsworth Miller was born on May 15, 1936, the son of William Miller and Mary Marguerite (Peg) Miller (nee Hanrahan). He began his Franciscan studies at St. Joseph's Minor (High School) Seminary in 1950 and entered the Sacred Heart Province of the Franciscan Order in 1956 when he was given the religious name, Bertin. Fr. Miller received a B.A. degree from Quincy College in 1960 and a Bachelor of Theology degree from the U.S. Campus of the Franciscan Pontifical University of St. Anthony in Rome in 1964. He was ordained a Catholic priest in 1964.

After ordination, Fr. Miller served as associate pastor in parishes in Jordan, Minnesota; Saint Clare, Missouri; and Jerseyville, Illinois. He also served as hospital chaplain at St. Anthony Hospital in Saint Louis, Missouri, and as resident retreat director at St. Michael's Paraclete Foundation in Sunset Hills, Missouri.

Since 1973, Fr. Miller has resided in Dittmer, Missouri. He was the founding

director of Evergreen Hills Homes in Dittmer, a long-term residential care center for court assigned youth. He was also the founder and director of Il Retiro in Dittmer, a spiritual renewal center, and was the founder of the Wounded Brothers Project and RECON, where he served as Executive Director.

He has also served as chaplain to the Cedar Hills (Missouri) Fire Department, to Jefferson County Jail in Hillsboro, Missouri, to the Farmington (Missouri) Correctional Center, and to the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department. He served as confessor and spiritual director for many priests, deacons and religious of the Archdiocese of St. Louis. Father Miller was a charter member of the Association of United States Catholic Priests.

As a Franciscan, he served as Assistant Provincial Director to the Secular Franciscan Order, the Director of Friar Formation, working closely with the men of the Sacred Heart Province, and later as a member of the governing council of the Sacred Heart Province of Franciscans. He also served as Guardian (Superior), Vicar, and bookkeeper of his local Franciscan community in Dittmer for several terms.

Fr. Miller was a 4th Degree Knight of Columbus and had membership in both the Elks Club in Cedar Hill, Missouri and Lions International in House Springs, Missouri. He has been listed as a noteworthy priest and social administrator by Marquis Who's Who.

For the past few years, Fr. Miller had suffered health difficulties and was diagnosed with cancer in 2023, a condition which caused his death. On Valentine's Day, he welcomed Sister Death with a true Franciscan spirit.

Fr. Miller was preceded in death by his parents, his brother Thomas, his sister Mary Jo Janc and his brother-in-law Anthony Janc. He is survived by his niece

Kris Elkins, great niece Alysa Elkins, great Nephew Cody Elkins, his Franciscan brothers, and many cherished relatives and friends.

In lieu of flowers, Fr. Miller requested that donations be made in his name to Il Ritiro, P.O. Box 38, 7935 St. Francis Ln., Dittmer, MO 63023.

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB **25**. 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

Chapel Hill Mortuary - Cedar Hill
6300 Highway 30
Cedar Hill, MO 63016
(636) 274-4100
info@stlfuneral.com
<https://www.stlfuneral.com>

Funeral Mass

FEB **26**. 12:00 PM (CT)

St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church
3140 Meramec St.
St. Louis, MO 63118

Luncheon Reception

FEB **26**. 1:30 PM (CT)

Christy Banquet Center
5856 Christy Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63116

Tribute Wall

MT

“ Our family just found out about Father Bert’s passing. Our sadness is that he is gone, but our happiness is that he is with the Lord. When he would vacation in CA, my husband & I would drive to Palm Springs & take he & Father Justin Belitz to a long afternoon lunch. The wisdom these two gentlemen shared is gone forever. Eternal Rest, Father Bert.

Mary Jean Tibbels - January 22, 2025 at 11:05 AM

SB

“ I was just informed today, 1/21/2025, that Fr Bert had Passed. Fr Bert was a dear friend of my cousin, Fr Justin “Bud” Belitz who passed a year earlier.. Both visited me at Priest Lake, Idaho on occasion. I’ll always remember going to Mass at our little church, St Blanches at Priest Lake, riding ATVs, boating and telling stories! He was a true friend, a gentleman and a man of God! I have several stories about their visits. My heart aches knowing he has passed. God Bless you Father Bert! While in Haven, tell Fr Bud we send our love and hello for us! Stan “Buddy” Belitz and a family.

Stan Belitz - January 21, 2025 at 10:20 PM

WF

“ My condolence to Fr, Bert's family. I remember Fr. Bert as a kind man with a smile that brightened my day. His encouragement that loved ones would be reunited in Heaven has made my loss easier to bear. He, along with Fr. Justin Belitz touched my life. May he rest in peace in the arms of the angels.

WAYNE Q FISCHER - July 31, 2024 at 07:10 AM

CC

“ I remember Fr. Bertin as a caring man who put the well being of others before himself. He went out of his way to help me understand that even though I was flawed that there was a God who would be there for me in death. That has made it easier for me in living my life even during my darkest times.

Chuck Coker - February 26, 2024 at 11:19 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Fr. Bertin Miller OFM.



February 24, 2024 at 10:57 AM

IH

“ Viv, my wife and i served St. Martin's UCC in Dittmer and were friends with Bert. He was an excellent clergy colleague. Thanks. Ivan Horn

Ivan and Vivian H - February 19, 2024 at 10:14 AM

DS

“ I knew Fr. Bert for many years. He was a great person and a great Priest. I will miss him. With my health I am not sure that I will make it out. God Bless, Fr. Dennis Schmidt

Dennis Schmidt - February 16, 2024 at 01:44 PM