



# *In Memoriam*



## FATHER ROBERT J. WILHELM

*Father Robert J. Wilhelm, 88, a senior status priest of the Diocese of Toledo, died on Thursday, March 11, 2021.*

Father Robert J. Wilhelm, age 88, passed away peacefully on March 11, 2021. He was a lifelong Toledo resident, attending St. Agnes grade school and entering St. Meinrad Seminary from the eighth grade at the age of 13. He was ordained a priest of the Diocese of Toledo in 1959. He obtained a Master's degree in Philosophy from Mt. St. Mary's Seminary in Cincinnati and participated in post-graduate studies at the University of Notre Dame and Fordham University, ultimately receiving a Doctorate in Sacred Theology from the Pontifical University of St. Thomas in Rome where he immersed himself in Italian culture, art, and cuisine. Countless students will remember him as a gifted professor at Mary Manse College, Lourdes University, and Siena Heights College.

Father Wilhelm ministered at various parishes in Toledo. He served as co-administrator at St. Michael's in 1970, was the founding pastor of the Community of the Risen Christ in Toledo in 1972, and served as the pastor of St. Patrick of Heatherdowns in 1975; St. John the Baptist in 1985; and Our Lady of Perpetual Help in 1997. Since 2005, he served as chaplain for the Sylvania Franciscan Sisters, celebrating daily Mass in Our Lady Queen of Peace Chapel on the motherhouse grounds and conducting funerals and various congregational celebrations. He cherished his time with his many loyal ongoing study groups, and his years'-long priest support group with best friends Fathers Arch Thomas, Fr. Bob Holden, Fr. Bob Reinhart, Fr. Dick Wurzel, Fr. Bob Kirtland, and Fr. Joe Vamos. His many parishioners will remember him as Father Wilhelm, a warm and caring priest. But to those in his inner circle (of which there are hundreds), he'll be remembered as Father Bob -- leader, intellectual, teacher, counselor, comforter, cook, host, friend, son, brother, brother-in-law, uncle, and great-uncle.

Father Wilhelm was preceded in death by his parents, Clayton and Lyda (Parlo) Wilhelm; sisters, Rita Neeb and Marilyn Anderson; brothers-in-law, Carl Wm Neeb and Roy Anderson. He is survived by his niece, Kathleen (David) Wernert; nephews, Thomas (Sue) Neeb, Michael (Vanessa) Neeb, and David, Mark, Greg (Jennifer), Chris (Susan) and Tim (Natalie) Anderson; as well as 12 great-nieces and nephews; and dear friends, Susie Stapleton and Diane Wamsley.

A Funeral Mass was held on Friday, March 19, 2021, with the Most Reverend Daniel E. Thomas, Bishop of Toledo, as the principal celebrant at Our Lady Queen of Peace Chapel again on the grounds of the Sisters of St. Francis of Sylvania. Interment will be private. The family thanks the continuous compassionate care given by Home Hospice of Northwest Ohio. Memorials may take the form of contributions to the Sylvania Franciscan Sisters, or a charity of the donor's choice.

*Eternal rest grant unto him O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon him.  
May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.*