



Daniel Zak

November 4, 1941 - July 10, 2021

The Rev. Daniel J. Zak

November 4, 1941 - July 10, 2021 (age 79)

Father Daniel J. Zak, a Roman Catholic priest of the Diocese of Toledo since 1967, passed away in his sleep on July 10, 2021, in Hospice of Northwest Ohio, Toledo, Ohio. He was 79 years old.

He was born on November 4, 1941 to Thaddeus and Adeline (Brzozka) Zak. His parents and twin brother, Dave, pre-deceased him. He is survived by brothers Jim (Sharon) and Ted (Eileen), along with numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

Growing up, he attended St. Adalbert Parish and School (1947-1955) and went on to St. Francis de Sales High School (1955-1959). After graduation he attended St. Meinrad Seminary College in Southern Indiana (1959-1963) earning a degree in Philosophy. He also conducted post-graduate studies at Mt. St. Mary's Seminary College in Cincinnati, Ohio (1963-1967) earning a M.A. in Theology, Xavier University in Cincinnati, Ohio (1963-1965) studying Political Science, St. Louis University in St. Louis, Missouri (1966-1967) studying Social Work, Youth in Community and Juvenile Delinquency, and finally the University of Toledo in Toledo, Ohio (1968-1975) earning a Masters in Education/Counseling and Guidance.

As a Diocesan priest, Dan held assignments at St. Clement Church (Toledo), Sts. Peter and Paul Parish (Sandusky), Lima Central Catholic High School

(Lima), Associate Director of Vocations Department (Toledo), Diocesan Director of Vocation Department (Toledo), Co-Pastor (with Father Jim Bacik) of Corpus Christi Parish at the University of Toledo (Toledo), Summer Chaplain at Cedar Point Amusement Park (Sandusky), Parish Chaplain at St. Thomas More University Parish (Bowling Green) and finally Pastor at St. Richard Parish (Swanton). On July 1, 2012 Dan was granted Senior Status. In over 50 years of service, Fr. Zak was also involved in numerous other ministries including: Associate Member of the Sisters of St. Francis Sylvania since 1984, Student Lounge at Corpus Christi University Parish (dedicated in his honor on September 27, 1998), Rotary Club Member - including mission trips (3) to Honduras, Home Repair Ministry - founding member (arm of Maumee Valley Chapter of Habitat for Humanity (2009 to present), Heartbeat - board member (2012 to 2017), Prison Ministry Team - Toledo Correctional Institution and Corrections Center of NW Ohio, The Sophia Center at Lourdes University - counseling and spiritual direction, Christian Leadership Program @ CCUP University of Toledo - counseling and spiritual direction, Christian Appalachian Project - alternative spring break experience repairing and building homes in Kentucky - spent over 25 years coordinating students to attend and then working with them and other college students from all over the country

And the list goes on.

Although never being a smoker, he was diagnosed with idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis in 2017. Fr. Zak's condition deteriorated over time requiring him to use supplemental oxygen for the past two years. The last 90 days, he had been in St. Luke's Hospital, Rosary Care Center, Flower Hospital and finally Hospice of Northwest Ohio where he succumbed to his illness.

He will be remembered as a dear friend to everyone who knew him. He officiated at over 320 marriages during his tenure and impacted thousands of college students from around the country particularly those from Bowling Green State University and the University of Toledo. His legacy will be measured by the lives of those whom he touched over these past 50 years.

The receiving ceremony will be held at 2:00 pm at Corpus Christi University Parish, 2955 Dorr St., Toledo, Ohio, 43607, on Friday July 16, 2021 with visitation to continue until the time of Vesper Services at 7:00 pm. Visitation will continue on Saturday July 17th from 8:00 am to 9:30 am. The Funeral Mass will be celebrated on July 17, 2021 at 10:00 a.m., with the Most Reverend Daniel E. Thomas, Bishop of Toledo, as the principal celebrant. Interment Services will follow in Resurrection Cemetery in Toledo, Ohio. The Funeral Mass will be available to watch via Live Stream. Go to ccup.org scroll down and click on the Live Stream link. The family thanks the compassionate care given by St. Luke's Hospital, Rosary Care Center, Flower Hospital and Hospice of Northwest Ohio, and particularly his personal physician and friend, Dr. Stephen P Bazeley M.D.

Memorials may take the form of contributions to the Rev. Daniel J. Zak Trust or to a charity of the donor's choice. Please view and sign our online "guest registry" at CoyleFuneralHome.com.

Cemetery Details

Resurrection Cemetery

5725 Hill Avenue
Toledo, OH 43615

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 16. 2:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Corpus Christi University Parish
2955 Dorr St
Toledo, OH 43607

Vespers Services

JUL 16. 7:00 PM - 7:30 PM (ET)

Corpus Christi University Parish
2955 Dorr St
Toledo, OH 43607

Funeral Ceremony

JUL 17. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Corpus Christi University Parish
2955 Dorr St
Toledo, OH 43607

Graveside Service

JUL 17. 11:45 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Resurrection Cemetery
5725 Hill Avenue
Toledo, OH 43615

Tribute Wall

NC

“ Nancy Croy lit a candle in memory of Daniel Zak



Nancy Croy - September 14, 2023 at 08:29 AM

NC

The world misses you!

Nancy Croy - September 14, 2023 at 08:31 AM

FH

“ God bless you all in the challenge of losing Dan. Know that he and all of you are in my prayer. I've always delighted in the fact that Dan took my sister, Carol, to his senior prom. We've laughed about that over the years. What a blessing, encouragement and inspiration he's been to so many of us!
Fr. Tom Helfrich, OSFS

Fr. Tom Helfrich - July 18, 2021 at 09:21 AM

PP

“ Rest In Peace Father Dan for a live well lived helping so many . You will be missed ! 🙏 There are a few grade school classmates ready to greet You . Paulette Pakulski (Don)

Paulette Pakulski - July 17, 2021 at 03:13 PM

HM

“ My thoughts and prayers are with you. My God hold Father Dan in the palm of His hand.

*Love and Prayers
Helen Malloy*

Helen Malloy - July 16, 2021 at 11:41 PM

DC

“ Father Dan, what a wonderful and active life journey you had; thanks for taking your time to say “Hello”....

Dennis and Phyllis Coy - July 16, 2021 at 06:49 PM

SM

“ Fr. Dan is a major part of the reason I am married to my husband as he gently and wisely and humbly guided Chris to find his vocation, which wound round to our marriage and children. Every life impacts the world, but Dan Zak’s IMPACT was and will continue to be immeasurable. Countless lives pointed toward faith/love in action by this single life. He showed us all how to live fully and simply in love. RIP, Dan Zak, you KIND, humble, JOYFUL man!

Susan Muller

susan muller - July 16, 2021 at 06:49 PM

DA

“ Words can not express what a whole their will be in our lives. Fr Dan was really special; His wonderful spirituality, his kindness, his willingness to help in any situation, his great sense of humor and his great love, We have had many wonderful times together. If only we could have more. We will miss you greatly but you will nver be forgotten.

Love, Dick and Donna Adler

Donna Adler - July 16, 2021 at 02:04 PM



“ *Tender Tribute was purchased for the family of Daniel Zak.*



July 15, 2021 at 05:24 PM



“ *Father Dan is in our prayers. He was our life long friend since we grew up together in Toledo. We were blessed to have him as family, as a life long Cousin. Thank you for the many things you did for the Brzozka Family, both as a Cousin, and Priest. We we all miss you very much. May God Bless you, and may Perpetual Light Shine upon you. We love you Padre.*

*John & Mary Brzozka Family
Cox's Creek, Kentucky*

John M. & Mary E. Brzozka Famly - July 15, 2021 at 03:28 PM



“ *My life was made better because of you, Dan. Thank you so much and I am sorry you had to suffer these last few years of your amazing and kind and giving life.*

*love,
Dave*

Dave Barciz - July 14, 2021 at 10:55 AM

MN

“ *Father Zak was truly one of a kind. He was loving, compassionate and an amazing sense of humor. He taught me so much about how life is about investing in the people around you and trying to make the world a better place. He led by example and would often reach out after being out of touch for a while. I will miss his laugh and his optimism. He was truly a man of God. Rest in Peace, Zakman.*

Matt Nagel - July 14, 2021 at 10:50 AM

KA

“ *Thank you, Dan, for being present to me in my years at UT and for supporting me in our shared interest in helping married couples. Your openness and realness with young people was a great gift to so many! Many thanks for your life of faithful service!*

Kevin Anderson - July 14, 2021 at 09:53 AM

RB

“ *I knew Father Zak through his brother Dave. Dave and I went to Central (back then it was known only as Central) Father was always very kind and gracious when we saw him at Corpus Christi. God rest his soul.*

Ron Borer

Ron Borer - July 14, 2021 at 08:19 AM



“ *Will always have Beautiful memories of Padre! He was certainly one of Our Family.
May you Rest In Peace
Forever in Our Hearts*

Dianne Westcott - July 14, 2021 at 03:35 AM

NK

“ NKC sent a virtual gift in memory of Daniel Zak



NKC - July 13, 2021 at 11:01 PM

JS

“ The year is 1951. Dan was an acolyte at St Adalbert's, one year ahead of me. He as already a generous and gracious leader then. He helped teach us how to be altar boys: light the candles, prepare the wine and water in the cruets, assist the officiant with his vestments and serve the officiant at mass, including the distribution of communion by properly holding the platen. We assisted the officiant with divesting and we extinguished the candles. Dan helped to make certain we understood our roles. I was personally very grateful to Dan for being such a wonderful role model. Thank you, Dan. May you Rest In Peace and watch over all whose lives you touched. With love and admiration, John Staczek

John Staczek - July 13, 2021 at 05:39 PM

TF

“ The McQuade Family purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Daniel Zak.



The McQuade Family - July 13, 2021 at 05:11 PM

DP

“ I met Fr Dan Zak at a vocations retreat when I was 18 and later again when he was at St. Richards enjoyed sewing him again..may he rest in peace in Heaven.

Debra Dodd Piasecki - July 13, 2021 at 04:42 PM



“ Fr Dan Zak was a big part of my college years and experience. He was a perfect person to reach out to during the confusing times of college and beyond. Knowing he has passed brings back many memories and makes me sad to know he is gone. He always called me Bubba.

Hank Boissoneault - July 13, 2021 at 04:39 PM

LE

“ Fr. Dan Zak, one of the best humans i know. I had the privledge to work with him at the University of Toledo and see first hand the impact he had on students! He married Jim and I in 1985, baptized our two children and then married our daughter and son in law in 2016. Conner and Fr. Dan share a birthday! I will never forget him. He had a profound influence on me and my family and i am forever grateful to have known him. RIP Dan! Till we meet again. Lori Edgeworth

Lori edgeworth - July 13, 2021 at 03:22 PM

JA

“ *Many great memories of Fr. Dan. Always fond of his sense of humor and his outlook on life...I know where he is now and that makes me happy. He loved his Lord and he genuinely loved all of us. Heaven has to be HAPPY to receive him as well ! Thanks for being my friend & see you again one day.*

Jeff Arman

Jeff Arman - July 13, 2021 at 02:20 PM

CV

“ *Padre Dan married my parents, baptized me, was my confirmation sponsor, and there for me at any time needed. Needless to say his commitment to knowledge, truth, faith, and friendship was second-to-none. Heaven gained an angel on Saturday, and I, as many, are blessed to have been part of such an incredible person's life. He will be dearly missed.*



Connor Vandecaveye - July 13, 2021 at 01:40 PM

SW

“ *Father Zak was a wonderful servant of God who empowered many lives with his love of God and spreading the good news to everyone he met. May you now rest in peace in eternal life in Heaven. Prayers and thoughts with family, friends and his fellow priest.*

Susan Steinberger Wumer - July 13, 2021 at 11:24 AM

BM

“ I’ve known The Padre for over 40 years. He was instrumental in any success I’ve had in my life, and Im thankful I was able to tell him that in a conversation we had back in March.
Reading all these posts, it makes me feel blessed that I was one of so many lives he touched.
Thank you for being a friend DZ. I will miss you.

Bob Malfara - July 13, 2021 at 11:10 AM

DB

“ We visited Fr Dan 2 weeks ago. We had a bond and mutual friend my Aunt Sr Maria Goretti. I was able to share with Fr Dan how much of an impact he had in my life especially at a very low point in my life. I can still hear him saying “Praise be to God”

David Bland - July 13, 2021 at 10:19 AM

AK

“ Father Dan was someone who made such a difference in the many people whose lives he touch through the love of Jesus Christ. I feel incredibly blessed that the Kennedy family was part of that. My family benefited for many years from his never ending love, compassion and kindness. I will be forever grateful for his involvement helping Casey and me raise our two boys. Through his time and talent he had such a big impact on them growing up in Swanton where he served many years as Pastor at St Richard Parish. Sean and Chris are who the fine men they are today due to the time they spent with Father Dan. Rest In Padre. Job well done.
Angie Kennedy.

Angie Kenned - July 13, 2021 at 09:59 AM

MD

“ Dan... as our friendship grew through my formative years - you had me call you just Dan. You knew I held immense respect for you as a priest and spiritual guide - but mostly as just my friend. You gave me so much of your time in those awkward teenage years of becoming.

You always showed kindness, grace, caring, and giving of your time and treasures... whether that was at DizMuzBeDaPlace, racquetball games, concerts, movies, TEC's, retreats, book studies, etc., etc..

I am a profoundly different man today because of the love and compassion you showed. Your actions of being taught me my most valued understanding of how to move through life. And while you never said these words - here's what you taught me: "go out and preach the gospel... and if you have to, use words".

I could go on and on... but this succinctly captures my immense love for you and for the PROFOUND impact you made in me - and in everyone I observed you touch as we moved through our too brief time together.

Peaceful rest my wonderful friend. I sure hope to see you again.

Michael Dailey

Michael Dailey - July 12, 2021 at 07:58 PM

PH

“ Padre DZ, quite simply was the embodiment of Christ and lived out Christianity as powerfully as anybody I have ever known. His influence on me began with TEC retreats and included Bible studies, days at DIZMUZBEDAPLACE, marital preparation, baptisms for my for our kids, and a lifetime as a spiritual advisor. Knowing he has seen the face of God and is dancing with our King brings great comfort. God Speed Dan, what a life well lived and a journey completed. I am sure he got to hear the words, "Well done my good and faithful servant!!"

Sincerely, the Hickey Tribe

Patrick Hickey - July 12, 2021 at 05:23 PM

SW

“ Fr Dan Zak was an awesome memory of my teenage and young adult life. He was wonderful
In his approach to making the faith a viable living and breathing joy filled relationship with God. He wasn't stoic or judgmental in my formative years. He just strongly encouraged My faith journey to ask questions , remain faithful and remember to serve those in need. Thanks Father Zak. I'm still keep the faith after all these years. Enjoy your heavenly reward for a job well done . ❤️ Sheila Wisniewski

Sheila Wisniewski - July 12, 2021 at 04:34 PM

SM

Fr. Dan is a major part of the reason I am married to my husband as he gently and wisely and humbly guided Chris to find his vocation, which wound round to our marriage and children. Every life impacts the world, but Dan Zak's IMPACT was and will continue to be immeasurable. Countless lives pointed toward faith/love in action by this single life. He showed us all how to live fully and simply in love. RIP, Dan Zak, you KIND, humble, JOYFUL man!
Susan Muller

susan muller - July 16, 2021 at 06:45 PM