



William Fisher

September 2, 1933 - August 30, 2021

Rev. William F. Fisher, O.S.F.S. passed away on August 30, 2021 at Flower Hospital, Sylvania, OH, following a long illness. Fr. Fisher was born to William and Mildred (Stengel) Fisher in Philadelphia, PA on September 2, 1933. He is survived by his brother, Robert F. Fisher and sisters, Miriam Bryant and Geraldine Flail.

In 1951 Fr. Fisher graduated from the Oblate High School in Philadelphia, Northeast Catholic and immediately entered the Oblate novitiate in Childs, MD. He made his first profession of vows as an Oblate on September 14, 1952. He earned a degree in philosophy from Catholic University in Washington, DC in 1958, followed by theological studies in Washington. He received a MA in English at Catholic University in 1967. Fr. Fisher was ordained a priest on June 3, 1961.

Following ordination, Fr. Fisher taught at his alma mater, Northeast Catholic from 1962-64, and St. Francis de Sales High School in Toledo, OH 1965-1979. He then began his career as a pastor, first at St. Paschal in Taylor, MI 1979-1993 and then at St. Joseph and St. Anne Parishes in Monroe, MI 1994-2013. In 2014 he entered senior status as an Oblate of St. Francis de Sales in residence at St. Francis de Sales High School, and in 2017 moved to Rosary Care Health Care Center in Sylvania, OH.

In addition to his priestly ministry Fr. Fisher was involved in civic duties, serving on the Monroe Parks and Recreation Commission for six years and as Commissioner of Parks and Recreation in Taylor, MI for three years.

Fr. Fisher was an avid opera buff and was a member of the chorus of the Toledo Opera Company and the Lyric Opera of Toledo, serving as vice-president and a founding member. A second tenor, he performed in nearly 70 productions and 30 operas and operettas. He sang in the chorus with Placido Domingo, Robert Merrill and Roberta Peters. Fr. Fisher is quoted as saying, "I don't have a good voice. But I have a large voice, and I can read a little music. I fit right into the chorus."

He also loved to travel and visited over 35 countries on five continents. He journeyed on African safaris, through the Sahara Desert, vacationed in the Galapagos Islands, and flew over Mount Everest in Nepal.

Visitation is scheduled for Wednesday, September 8, 2021 from 4:00 - 4:45 p.m. followed by the Mass of Christian Burial at 5:00 p.m. at Gesu Church, 2049 Parkside Blvd., Toledo, OH 43607. Interment will be at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, September 9, 2021 at Resurrection Cemetery in Toledo.

Donations in memory of Fr. Fisher may be made to the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales, PO Box 2868, Toledo OH 43606

Please view and sign the online registry at CoyleFuneralHome.com

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP 8. 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

Gesu
2049 Parkside Blvd
Toledo, OH 43607

Funeral Ceremony

SEP 8. 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Gesu
2049 Parkside Blvd
Toledo, OH 43607

Graveside Service

SEP 9. 10:00 AM - 10:15 AM (ET)

Resurrection Cemetery
5725 Hill Avenue
Toledo, OH 43615

Tribute Wall

CC

“ *Father Bill was a close friend of my parents, Gus and Barbara Link. He loved good food and good music and he shared that with my mom and dad. He loved fine wines and he shared that with my dad. I remember the wonderful get togethers at our house and remember the laughter and the singing. He was a great raconteur and was able to tell a joke or a story like no one else I know. He accomplished so many things in his life and was so proud to be in the Toledo Opera Chorus. He was a dedicated priest and teacher and was always with us through happy and sad times. He presided at my wedding and at my parents’ funerals. He was family. I will never forget him and I will miss him.*

Cathy Link Cappelletty

Cathy Link Cappelletty - September 09, 2021 at 10:06 PM

MB

“ *Big brother Bill I have been reminiscing all the great memories we had as a family growing up. You were always there for me. I miss you. I love you and I will see you soon. Love your sister Miriam. 💕💕*

Miriam Bryant - September 08, 2021 at 07:29 PM

GF

“ *sending my love big Brother always in my Heart., Love you so much , your baby sister.*



geraldine flail - September 08, 2021 at 12:20 PM

SG

“ *Father Fisher was our priest at St Paschals in Taylor MI....he brought such joy and laughter to the parish and his Christmas Eve acapella version of Oh Holy Night during midnight mass was amazing. He was a big part of all of our lives in the parish. He and his dog Willie (named after William Shakespeare) were always together. RIP Father Fisher and God Bless You.*

Sheree Greenhalge - September 07, 2021 at 07:13 PM

BF

“ *My brother Bill left the house at 18 to join the priesthood but he came back to perform our wedding and those of our children. Ours was his first wedding in 1963. He also married his nephew Bob (Tina) and nieces Denise (Mike) and Barb (Joe) over the years. Bill was also able to come home to christen our oldest grandson. He had a terrific voice especially when he sang Ave Maria. Over the years it gave us comfort knowing that he had a loving community in the parishes he was a part of since he was far from home. He will be greatly missed.*

Bob Fisher - September 07, 2021 at 01:25 PM

BF

“ *Bob and Rita Fisher & Family purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of William Fisher.*



Bob and Rita Fisher & Family - September 07, 2021 at 12:47 PM

MF

“ There are so many memories. Fr. Bill always felt like a part of our family. He participated in weddings, funerals, anniversary parties, as well as regular evenings of listening to opera with my parents while he and my dad drank cognac. He was a marvelous human being, with so many different interests. From opera lover to military chaplain to a good and understanding teacher, and then all the leadership and good works he did as a pastor in Michigan. And we all loved his wicked sense of humor. We send condolences to his family and to the Oblates and to all the many others who were enriched by knowing him.

Mary Link Frost

Mary Link Frost - September 06, 2021 at 05:07 PM



“ pastor at St. Joseph Parish, Monroe where I was a member. Fr. Bill endeared himself for his work and dedication to the poor and underprivileged of our county. Our parish was the first to adopt Habitat as our outreach ministry. With the help of his pastoral associate, Sr. Harriet Fitzmaurice, IHM and Carolyn Solomon IHM Associate. and other dedicated parishioners they initiated a Food Closet program for distribution of vital food products and a weekly dinner served every Wednesday. Soon after the other Monroe churches offered a dinner meal on other days of the week. Fr. Bill's work with the people in Monroe continues in other forms today. Fr. Bill left a heritage of good works and modeled for all the true spirit of "love of neighbor" especially love and service for the less fortunate. I am grateful to have served in some of these initiatives.
Sincerely, Joyce Durosko, IHM

Joyce Durosko - September 05, 2021 at 08:13 PM



“ 4 files added to the album Memories Album



Michael Taylor - September 05, 2021 at 04:49 PM



“ *The Priest who married us, served as our Priest for many years, and also who presided over the religious portion of my Navy retirement ceremony and reception in 2011, passed away last week. Rarely in my life have I ever been more privileged, spiritually uplifted, nor have I had feelings of personal acknowledgement, or benefitted so much from an association and friendship with anyone like that I had with Father Bill Fisher. He leaves a great legacy of many people who will say similar things and better, and who have gained in very many ways, including exceptional learning experiences, in depth guidance on many levels by his leadership, direction, and especially his incredible ability to show mercy, and provide peace to so many poor, unfortunate and even dejected people of our town and elsewhere. Feeling very sad today at his passing, but also very privileged and honored to have known him and thankful that so many of us have had such an example of devotion, compassion and sacrifice in our midsts. He will be very sincerely missed by us and also I'm certain also by very many others.*

Michael Taylor - September 05, 2021 at 04:42 PM

TP

“ I did not know Fr. Fisher well but I do know he had tremendous intellect. Students greatly respected him. I will keep his family and the Oblates in my prayers. Sincerely, Tim Iorio, Class of 1971

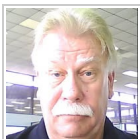
Tim Iorio, Ph.D. - September 05, 2021 at 01:18 PM



Veronica Malone

“ Father fisher was a very valuable mentor to me in my HS years at st. Francis HS in Toledo oh. He was one of my coaches when we formed the HS swimming team at sfs and built the pool and for me was the front door to a 45 year coaching career which he influenced at all levels . I am forever grateful to all he was in my life. One of the special treats he officiated at my wedding October 1973 . We are still married and yes we will celebrate our 48 anniversary this October. Thank father bill for all you do to help to shape me and inspire and support me in my life quest. Your admiring friend Peter
d/veronica Malone

Veronica Malone - September 05, 2021 at 12:38 PM



“ He was my favorite teacher. He really helped me my junior year after my dad died of a heart attack. I am a better man to have know William.

David Nowak - September 05, 2021 at 12:36 PM

JM

“ I was a student of Father Fisher.....I will always remember our playful debate about whether epic poems, such as Beowulf, could be written today. There was some laughing. He will be missed.

Jim

Jim Mulherin - September 05, 2021 at 10:40 AM

BS

“ *Father Fisher occasionally said Mass at my parish, St. Michael in Monroe, Michigan. He always set the altar servers at ease and was very playful with them, flicking water at them after washing his hands. He was truly a man of the world and I feel blessed for knowing him just a little bit.*

A thankful servant of the Lord

Bill Sunderland - September 03, 2021 at 08:52 AM

C.

“ *Father Bill was the best. When my parents came to Monroe after getting married, St. Joe's church was doing mass in a school gym with folding chairs on account of church maintenance.*

Father was so charismatic, so funny, and so engaging that they kept coming back and back and back.

And so it was Father Bill who baptized me and gave me my first confession.

He was an incredible man, a funny man, and had a great impact on my life. Praying for the repose of his soul.

C.J.B. - September 01, 2021 at 10:23 PM

JR

“ *As a member of St. Joe's church in Monroe and the Hispanic community, my family and I would like to express our deepest gratitude, and condolences to his family and friends on his passing to a better life. Father Fisher will be missed and remembered always. RIP*

Jorge Rivera - September 01, 2021 at 04:48 PM

VG

“ 6 files added to the album ST JOSEPH CHURCH-FATHER BILL



Virginia Gonzalez - September 01, 2021 at 10:26 AM

CR

Presided at numerous family funerals contributing his beautiful rendition of Ave Maria

c raymond - September 01, 2021 at 02:09 PM



Veronica Malone

Father fisher was a valuable mentor to me in my HS years at st ffrancis HS Toledo oh and was one of my coaches in the formative years of th the HS swimming team and amazing dynasty that started in 1965. I am forever grateful to all he was in my life and one the special treats he officiated my wedding in October 1973 and yes we celebrate our 48 anniversary this October wow thank you for all you gave me in my life quest admiring friend peter d / /veronica Malone

Veronica Malone - September 05, 2021 at 09:46 AM

ML

*Father Fisher was a interesting man! He got me to go to the opera to see Die Fledermaus, of course he bribed us with a couple extra points on our grade. He was a very smart and nice teacher and friend. My prayers to the Oblate Community for your loss.
Mike Liszak class of 72*

Mike Liszak - September 05, 2021 at 02:31 PM

PK

Moving from Los Angeles to Toledo and becoming part of the St. Francis de Sales family and coaching staff was a defining moment for Barbara and myself. Fr. Fisher provided friendly advice to the newly weds. When the principal asked me for my advice on a spiritual adviser for the swim team "we" choose Fr. Fisher - why not choose a "fisher of boys". I have many memories of his loving advice over those four years.

*Pete Kennedy Ph. D.
Iowa City, Iowa*

Peter and Barbara Kennedy - September 06, 2021 at 01:08 PM

WC

As a new freshman swimmer Fr. Fisher taught us the traditions of the Team and of SFS as a school.

He taught me, through swimming, English class, and homeroom, how to set goals and work hard to achieve them. Also, how to laugh at ourselves along the way.

With his classroom teaching and character he exhibited, he assisted countless Knights in their path to adulthood.

Thank you Fr. Fisher

Bill Clegg 74. Kalamazoo MI

William Clegg - September 08, 2021 at 11:52 AM