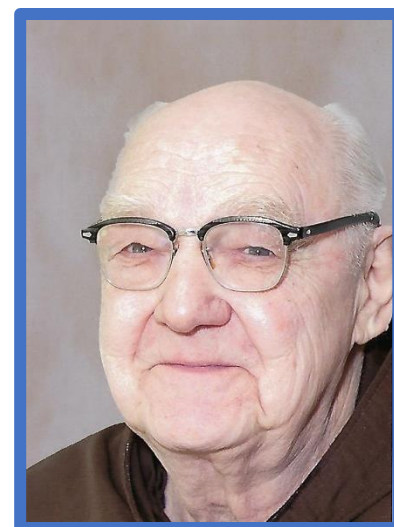


## Bede Hepnar, O.F.M. 1931-2018

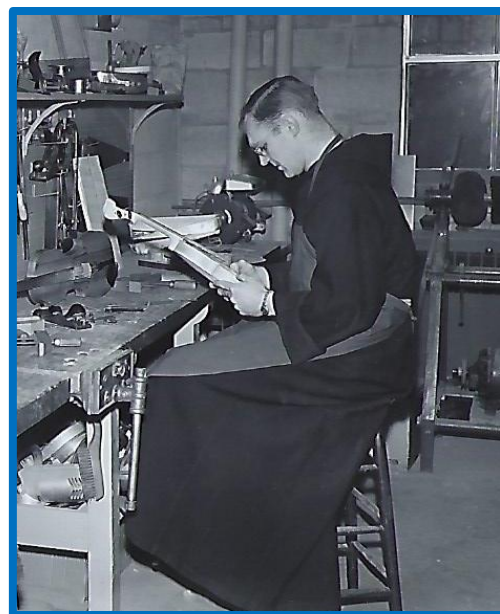


It was July 30, 1948 that Fr. Isidore Cwiklinski, Provincial Minister, wrote to Joseph Hepnar, "I have just received your short note informing me of your accident and broken ankle. We would like very much to have you receive the Franciscan Habit together with other candidates. That is why I wish you would come here on August 11 at the latest, so that you can get at least three days of the Retreat. Frater Marvin Tojek had a similar incident but he came here at the scheduled time." Joseph did make the retreat and was invested on August 14, 1948 in Pulaski, Wisconsin by Fr. Isidore, receiving the religious name, Bede.

It was on March 17, 1931 that George and Mary Hepnar gave birth to a son, Joseph. His parents had him baptized at St. Andrew the Apostle Church, Calumet City, IL. He completed his elementary school education at Five Holy Martyrs Parochial School and went on to enrolled at St. Bonaventure Minor Seminary & High School, Sturtevant, Wisconsin. The seeds of this gifted man began to bear fruit. However, we must credit his parents who gave us such a multi-talented man as a gift to the Order and to the Church.

Soon after ordination, Bede found himself involved in the education field: from Pulaski and Sturtevant to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and Clinton, Iowa. He contributed his gifts to Franciscan Publishers, Pulaski as well as to the world of science and the arts.

Bede's gifts seemed to flourish under the stars. He found his energy level at its peak late in the night, a rhythm that would follow him throughout his life. The night sky fascinated Bede. He was an avid amateur telescope-maker and observer. He had acquired an 18-inch lens during his assignments at St. Bonaventure High School, Sturtevant where he taught science and mathematics. This lens would eventually find itself loaded on the back of a pickup truck for the 3,600-mile trek to Flagstaff, Arizona.



Bede's interests were not limited to science and math. He found great delight in musical instruments. The violin caught his attention. As time unfolded, Bede was not only interested in listening to the violin but actually making the instrument. It was with a great deal of patience and research that Bede was able to make several violins during his lifetime.



The artist in Bede continued to break through during those creative nighttime vigils he kept in his workroom. The next expression of creativity found its way on to a canvas. His love for the Mother of God was his inspiration for his rendition of the Sorrowful Mother, a painting that hangs in the Assumption Friary, Pulaski.

It was in a letter dated March 8, 2001 that Bede asked Fr. Thomas Luczak for permission to retire from active ministry. Fr. Tom's response was simple and direct, "There is no place for retirement from a life of the Gospel. Friars should work for the Gospel in a manner that is compatible to their abilities and age." And so it was.

Bede found himself looking at yet another expression of creativity. It would be an interest in writing. In his last years at the Milwaukee Catholic Home, Bede requested a writing desk and a typewriter, yes, a typewriter to begin a final project, his autobiography. Unfortunately, Sister Death claimed him before he was able to pen the first chapter.



Fr. Bede Hepnar died early on the morning of June 4, 2018 at Columbia Hospital St. Mary's, Milwaukee, Wisconsin in the 87-year of his life, the 68-year of his religious profession and the 61-year of his priesthood. The Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at Queen of Peace Friary, Burlington, Wisconsin on Monday, June 11, 2018 at 11 AM with viewing one hour prior to Mass. Burial will take place

at the Provincial Cemetery, Pulaski, Wisconsin on Tuesday, June 12, 2018 at 9:30 AM. May his soul and the souls of all the faith departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

## Hepnar, Bede (Joseph) OFM

### Personal

Parents: Adalbert Hepnar & Maryanne Kolodziej  
Birth: March 17, 1931 – Calumet City, Illinois  
Baptism: April 18, 1931 – St. Andrew the Apostle Parish – Calumet City, IL  
Confirmation: October 24, 1943 – Five Holy Martyrs Parish – Chicago, IL

### Scholastic Record

Elementary: St. Joseph School – Chicago, IL – 1936-38  
Five Holy Martyrs School – Chicago, IL – 1938-44  
Secondary: St. Bonaventure H.S. – Sturtevant, WI – 1944-48  
College: St. Francis College – Burlington, WI – 1949-53  
Theology: Lourdes Seminary – Cedar Lake, IN – 1953-55  
Christ the King Seminary – West Chicago, IL – 1959-60  
Post Graduate: Stout University, Menominee, MI – 1959-62 (Summers)

### Religious Life

I Order Investiture: August 14, 1948 – Pulaski, WI – Isidore Cwiklinski  
Simple Profession: August 15, 1949 – Pulaski, WI – Isidore Cwiklinski  
Solemn Profession: August 15, 1952 – Burlington, WI – Theophane Kallinowski

### Ministerial Orders

Tonsure: June 3, 1955 – Cedar Lake, IN – Leo Pursley (Diocese of Gary)  
Ostiarate: June 4, 1955 – Cedar Lake, IN – Leo Pursley  
Lectorate: June 4, 1955 – Cedar Lake, IN – Leo Pursley  
Exorcist: April 25, 1956 – Lisle IL – Martin McNamara (Diocese of Joliet)  
Acolyte: April 25, 1956 – Lisle IL – Martin McNamara  
Subdiaconate: March 19, 1957 – West Chicago, IL – Martin McNamara  
Diaconate: April 29, 1957 – West Chicago, IL – Martin McNamara  
Priesthood: June 1, 1957 – Joliet, IL – Martin McNamara

### Provincial Appointments

1958-59: Pulaski, WI – Assumption Friary – Faculty, St. Joseph School for Brothers; Studies at Stout University (1959-62)  
1960-61: Philadelphia, PA – St. Pius X Friary – Faculty, Neuman H.S.  
1962- : Huron, S.D – St. John's Hospital, Assistant Chaplain, Faculty of Nursing School  
1962-63: Pulaski, WI – Assumption Friary – Excurrens  
1963- Clinton, IA – Mount St. Clare Academy & Junior College – Faculty, while ascribed to Christ the King Seminary, West Chicago, IL (Feb – July )

1963-66: Sturtevant, WI – St. Joseph Friary – Faculty, St. Bonaventure H.S.  
1966-71: Philadelphia, PA – St. Pius X Friary – Faculty, Archbishop Ryan H.S.  
1971-72: Pulaski, WI – Assumption Friary – Excurrens  
1972- Lewiston, MI – St. Francis Parish – Administrator, while ascribed to St. Leonard Friary, Saginaw, MI (Jan – July)  
1972-73: Grand Rapids, MI – St. Bernardine Friary – Excurrens  
1973-77: Sturtevant, WI – St. Joseph Friary – Faculty, St. Bonaventure H.S.  
1977-78: Pulaski, WI – Assumption Friary – Franciscan Publishers  
1978-80: Centralia, IL – St. Mary’s Hospital – Chaplain, while ascribed to Bartlett Regional Friary  
1980-84: Pulaski, WI – Assumption Friary – Franciscan Publishers  
1984-85: Grand Rapids, MI – St. Bernardine Friary – Guardian  
1985-92: Pulaski, WI – Assumption Friary – Internal Services  
1992-2001: Cedar Lake, IN – Lourdes Friary – Excurrens  
2001-11 Green Bay, WI – St. Mary of the Angels Friary  
2012-14 Burlington, WI – Queen of Peace Friary, retired  
2014-18 Milwaukee, WI - Milwaukee Catholic Home, resident