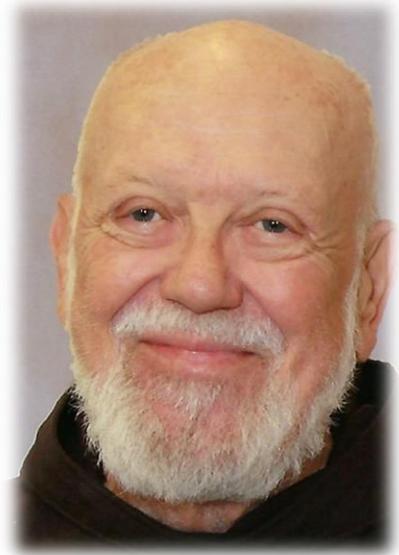


Bert (Myron) Pepowski
May 14, 1935-December 28, 2017

Bert's heart was constantly given over to God. Where human sin and frailty caused deep anguish, so too did the healing touch of God. In all things, Bert found himself surrendering in faith and relied on the mercy of God.

This deep faith was a seed planted in his heart from home. He was born on May 14, 1935 to Ben and Verna (Wilkowski) Pepowski, faith-filled parents steeped in their Catholic Faith.



Fr. Bert grew up close to his roots. As a son to first-generation Americans of Polish immigrants, he grew up bilingual and followed his family's Polish traditions, which included living out his strong Catholic faith. He attended County Line Elementary School and St. Ladislaus School for the first two years of high school. At the age of 16, he left to follow his calling to the priesthood and completed high school at St Bonaventure High School in Sturtevant, WI. After graduation he continued his path to the priesthood at St. Francis College, Burlington, WI and Christ the King Seminary, West Chicago, IL. He was ordained to the priesthood on May 27, 1961.

Fr. Bert had many assignments with the Franciscan Friars of The Assumption Blessed Virgin Mary Province, including Home Missionary, Assistant Director of Preaching, Assistant Director of Vocations, Associate Guardian of St. Mary of the Angels Friary, Green Bay, WI, Guardian of Assumption Friary, Pulaski, WI, Guardian of Lourdes Friary, Cedar Lake, IN, Hospital Chaplain, Maintenance, and Internal Services.

He obtained his private pilot's certificate in 1974. As the Lord led, he continued in his aviation education, acquiring the status of CFI, CFII (Certified Flight Instructor for single engines, private, instrument, commercial and water ratings) and MEI, MEII (Certified Flight Instructor for multi-engines, both private and instrument). He continued in private instruction, as well as volunteered in several states for Mission/Counter-Narcotics Pilot for the U.S. Civil Air Patrol (CAP). One of his most memorable aviation endeavors involved both his priestly and piloting talents as he flew missions in the Galapagos Islands.

Fr. Bert especially enjoyed his time in the woods, hunting, the camaraderie of his hunting gang, his week at EAA in Oshkosh, his time at the Chalet with the “Beventers”, and his visits in Shantytown, but most of all just being with his family and close friends that he loved so much.

As a pilot, a teacher, a motorcyclist, a skydiver, a lover of nature, a hunter and one of the best storytellers ever, he lived his life as a Franciscan with his heart wide open. His stories of his encounters with God’s wonders, grace and miracles, along with his travels and work throughout the United States and the Galapagos Islands, could easily fill a book or two. His light, love, and spirit will forever remain etched upon the hearts of those who knew him.

At the height of his preaching ministry, Bert experienced a struggle within himself that caused pain for him and others, both within the Community and among the people of God. He lived with the consequences of that reality that brought him closer to God. Fr. Bert was preceded in death by his parents, one sister (Mary), one brother (Roger). He is survived by one sister Irene (Clarence) Przybylski, many nieces, nephews, and cherished friends.

Reception of the Body at 4:30 PM at ABVM Friary, Sunday, January 7, 2018 with Evening Prayer. A rosary prayed before the visitation at 8:30 a.m. followed by visitation from 9:00-11:00 a.m. Mass of Christian Burial on January 8, 2018 at 11:00 a.m. at Assumption BVM Church, 124 E. Pulaski St, Pulaski, WI. Spring burial ABVM Provincial Cemetery, Pulaski WI

A Memorial Mass will also be held on January 13, 2018 at 3:00 p.m. at Lourdes Friary, 12921 Parrish St, Cedar Lake IN.

In Bert’s words “Domilego zoboczenia” (until we lovingly meet again)

Ruby Pepowski Kluck contributed to this Obituary.