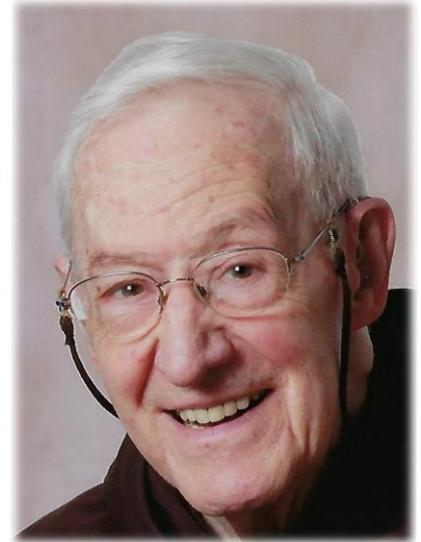


Anthony (Stanislaus) Gancarz, O.F.M. **1923-2020**



Stanislaus Gancarz was born July 2, 1923 and grew up in Sweetest Heart of Mary Parish in the Poletown section of Detroit, Michigan. He was born the son of Joseph and Mary (née Sanecki) Gancarz, attended the parish parochial school and graduated from its high school in 1942. Completing his secondary education, Stanislaus landed a job at Chrysler, first in the office as clerical staff and then as supervisor of the auto parts department.

Despite America's entry into the Second World War against Germany, Stanislaus remained with Chrysler during the war years but was eventually drafted in 1946. He joined the navy and did basic training at the Great Lakes Naval Training Base outside Chicago, Illinois. After training he was assigned to the Naval Base in Corpus Christi, Texas where he performed clerical duties. After his tour of duty, Stanislaus was honorably discharged in Memphis, Tennessee, in 1948.



While on base in Texas, Stanislaus contacted the Provincial Secretary, Fr. Remigius Steczkowski, requesting entrance into the Franciscan community in Pulaski, Wisconsin. In June 1948, Stanislaus arrived at Assumption BVM Monastery in Pulaski to begin his candidacy to the Order. On August 14, 1948, he was invested with the Tertiary habit and took the name of "Anthony." He found himself working at the Franciscan Printery but only for a few months. When Bro. Anselm Baran was reassigned to St. Anthony of Padua High School, Watkins Glen, New York, Anthony was assigned to take his place. He was transferred to St. Paschal Friary in Toledo, Ohio. With no prior experience in the kitchen, Anthony resigned himself to giving it a try for a week or two. For the next two years, Anthony did his best to carry on with his rookie culinary skills.

In 1951 Anthony entered the novitiate located at Assumption BVM Monastery in Pulaski and in October was relocated to Queen of Peace Monastery and Novitiate, Lake Geneva, Wisconsin. Bro. Anthony, with the most cooking experience than anyone in the community, was given the honor as a novice to cook for over 20 friars. Relief came in May and Anthony was reassigned to work in the laundry. After first vows on August 15, 1952, Anthony was assigned to the printery in Pulaski but his stay was short. The next year Anthony found himself back in Toledo. This time he was all-round handy man and chauffeur. In 1954 Anthony was assigned to St. Anthony's Prep in Watkins Glen to assist Bro. Vincent Koper in the kitchen. After a brief stay in Watkins Glen, Anthony once again found himself in Pulaski, working in the Mission Office of the Province. This assignment found Anthony thinking about the missions. In 1959 he was granted permission to join the friars in the Philippines on the Island of Samar. In late January

1960, Anthony arrived at his first assignment in Calbayog City where he was assigned to the friary as the cook. After ten years of ministry in the islands, Anthony decided to return to the States. It was 1970.

Upon his return, Anthony was assigned to Pulaski where he would work for the next 22 years in the Linotype department of Franciscan Publishers and Printers. During those years Anthony prepared typeset for countless books, pamphlets and magazines for printing in English and Polish. By 1992, much of the printery's printing and publishing was done by computer. Late 20th century technology effectively made obsolete long-standing methods in the publishing industry necessitating adaptations and conversions in manpower and machinery. The Linotype was one of several printery operations affected by the computer age. The department was closed and Anthony, 69, had to find another way of feeling useful.



Anthony lost no time in applying his talents for the benefit of the community. He took upon himself the duties of sacristan and keeper of the friary becoming, in effect, it's very orderly domestic engineer. He upheld the reputation our province had for meticulously clean friaries.

Anthony was not disquieted by the subtleties of age. He gracefully accepted his years, yet remained resilient and persistent. Weakened by age, Anthony realized that it was time to leave Pulaski. It was August 2019 when he arrived at Queen of Peace Friary, Burlington, Wisconsin. However, his stay was short-lived. Physically unable to manage the life at Queen of Peace Friary, he transitioned for the last time to the Milwaukee Catholic Home. With round the clock nursing care, he was able to find some stability. But the body was already weak with age and simply could not sustain him any longer.

In the evening of October 24, 2020, Sister Death came to claim Anthony and so fell asleep in the Lord. He died in the 97th year of life and the 68th year of religious profession and 65th year of solemn profession.

May the soul of Anthony and the souls of all the Faithful Departed, rest in peace. Amen.

