

William Wright, C.Ss.R.



Rev. (Vernon) William Wright, CSSR
(12/28/1933 - 12/14/2020)

Private Funeral Services
St. Clement Redemptorist Chapel
Livestream: <https://www.facebook.com/paul.yasenak>

Thursday: December 17, 2020
07:00pm - Vigil/Wake

Friday: December 18, 2020
10:00am - Mass of Resurrection
(Burial follow after Mass at Liguori Cemetery)

Eternal rest grant unto Fr. Bill, O Lord.
And let perpetual light shine upon him.
May he rest in peace. Amen

North American Conference of Redemptorists

Please pray for the repose of the soul of beloved Fr. (Vernon) William Wright, C.Ss.R., a missionary in Thailand for 48 years, who died on December 14, 2020 at St. Clement Redemptorist Mission Community in Liguori. He was 86, and had recently been placed in hospice care.

Born on December 28, 1933 in Grand Haven, MI, he made his first profession of vows on August 2, 1955 and professed perpetual vows on September 2, 1958. He was ordained to the priesthood at Immaculate Conception Seminary on June 29, 1960.

In his first assignment, the shy and gentle priest was missioned to serve the poor and abandoned in the North Country of Thailand. He arrived in 1962 and was stationed as assistant to then-Msgr. Clarence (Dewey) Duhart in Udon, where he immersed himself in studying the Thai and Vietnamese languages. He was appointed pastor of Tha Bor in the village of Bulu, a small Catholic remnant east of Udon. He roared through the North Country astride a motorcycle, making the rounds from village to village as he ministered to the people.

Fr. Bill had found his niche in parish ministry, and during the next 43 years he served as pastor in a succession of parishes: Thabo; Sakon Nakorn; Nong Khai; Ban Tin; Viengkuk; Nong Song and Xang Ming, a big Catholic village in the Sakonakorn Province. He is remembered as a humble and good pastor who never missed an appointment and was particularly devoted to the sick and the elderly. He helped many young people pay for their higher education, and inspired many religious vocations. Former Vice Provincial Will Lowery once said of him, "If we had a half dozen more like him, the rest of us could go home."

Health issues necessitated his return to the United States in 2010. Fr. Bill was granted retirement status when he joined the St. Alphonsus Parish in Grand Rapids, but he regularly offered the Sunday liturgy at Spectrum Rehabilitation Hospital and a Thursday liturgy at a nursing home operated by the Carmelite Sisters. When his health issues became more pronounced, he was assigned at St. Clement Health Care Center in Liguori. He is remembered as a joyful, happy presence in community who enjoyed reminiscing about his time in Thailand.

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and may perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace.