



Rev. Neri Greskoviak

MAR 23, 1936 - AUG 15, 2021



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Rev. Neri Greskoviak

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Rev. Neri Greskoviak OFM, died Sunday, August 15, 2021 at St. John the Baptist Friary in Cincinnati. Born on March 23, 1936, in Minonk, Illinois, Richard Greskoviak was one of four children of Proxida (Nee: Smolinski) and Joseph Greskoviak. He attended St. Patrick Parish elementary school and then graduated from St. Francis Seminary in Cincinnati before entering the novitiate on August 15, 1954 and receiving the religious name “Neri.”

Professing his first vows in 1955, he entered Duns Scotus College in Southfield, Michigan, where he made his solemn vows in 1958. Then, after theology studies, Neri was ordained to the priesthood on June 13, 1963, at St. Leonard College in Centerville, Ohio. Classmate Dennet Jung remembers Fr. Neri most vividly working outdoors with an axe in his hand, a vivid and sarcastic sense of humor and a loud laugh in his belly. These passions continued throughout Fr. Neri’s life.

Fr. Neri spent his entire ministerial life as a parish pastor. His first assignment was in New Mexico. He would go on to serve as associate pastor or pastor at parishes in Ohio, Indiana and Illinois. He spent his last 33 years at Illinois parishes. In 2014 he semi-retired at St. Mary’s Friary’s in Bloomington, serving as Parochial Vicar. In 2016, he fully retired to the Holy Family Friary in Oldenburg, helping in the parish and surrounding area as able and needed.

Parishioners loved Fr. Neri’s down-to-earth common touch. He was creative and free-spirited in his preaching using symbols and even stunts to get his message across. Fr. Ric Schneider reflected that parishioners also fondly and patiently remember, with a smile, some of Fr. Neri’s homilies that went on (and on) before finally finding a place to land.

In addition to his parents, he is also preceded in death by his sister Roselyn Renner and brothers Jerome and Arthur Greskoviak. He is survived by his sisters-in-law; friar classmate Dennet Jung and close friend Mary Ellen Gillman, OSF.



Obituary

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A prayer service, sharing of stories and visitation will begin 9 a.m. Wednesday, August 18th at Holy Family Church in Oldenburg. Funeral services follow at 10 a.m. with burial in the church cemetery.



Visitation

- Wednesday**, August 18, 2021
- 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM ET
- Holy Family Church**
3027 Pearl Street, Oldenburg IN 47036



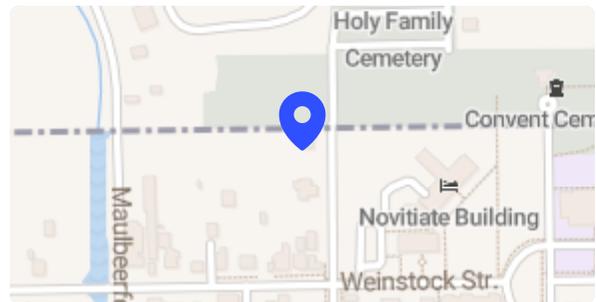
Service

- Wednesday**, August 18, 2021
- 10:00 AM ET
- Holy Family Church**
3027 Pearl Street, Oldenburg IN 47036



Cemetery Details

- Holy Family Cemetery**
3078 Pearl Street, Oldenburg IN 47036





Tribute Wall

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Anonymous sent a Serene Retreat to the Greskoviak family.



August 17 at 9:08 AM



Lisa Obery posted:

Fr Neri married my husband and myself. I first met him when I was going to school to become a teacher and I needed to attend a school board meeting. I chose to attend St Mary's School of Metamora because that was my hometown school. I met Fr Neri there. From that day forward he became my friend. I married a hometown boy and Fr Neri married us. We loved listening to his sermons because there was always a story he would tell. The best sermons were the ones after he had been on vacation and the stories he would share. We never knew where he was going but always found out after he was back. His laugh, his smile and love of life will be greatly missed. When I almost lost my first daughter he came to our home to pray with us. Then when I delivered her he was there. He reminded me of our great faith. She is here for a reason. I carried that with me. Then when I was diagnosed with cancer he was there for me. Fr Neri was a member of our family always loved. His smile, his toothpick and his laugh will be greatly missed. God picked a good one to carry his faith and now he has called him home. Job well done Fr. Neri. One day we will see you again. With Love John and Lisa Obery

August 17 at 5:41 AM



Julie Harper posted:

Fr Neri meant so much to me. There are way to many stories to tell but he will always hold a place in my heart. God in peace my friend!Julie Harper

August 16 at 2:37 PM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Rev. Neri by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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