

Rev. Richard F. Wersing

Rev. Richard F. Wersing, C.S.Sp., of Bethel Park, a member of the Congregation of the Holy Spirit died Wednesday, August 23, 2006. He was 96 years old.

Father Wersing was born February 12, 1910 in Wilkesburg PA. He professed his vows August 15, 1934 at Holy Ghost Novitiate, Ridgefield CT and was ordained to the priesthood September 8, 1937 at St. Mary's Seminary, Ferndale, Norwalk CT.

Shortly after his ordination he was appointed to parish ministry and served in Oklahoma and Louisiana. In 1943 he joined the U.S. Army as a chaplain. His various assignments included service in a Prisoners of War camp in Arkansas and Louisiana. He was chaplain to the Atomic Energy Project at Albuquerque NM, at the Army War College in Carlisle PA and division chaplain at Fort Hood TX. He was chaplain to the Veterans Hospital in Tucson AZ and also served his Congregation in the missions in Kentucky and Colorado. During the remainder of his 24-year military career Fr. Wersing spent time in Europe, Algeria, Morocco, Israel, and Korea. Upon his retirement from the military in 1967 with the rank of Lt. Colonel, he was assigned to Duquesne University and taught in the English Department until 1977. He became full-time archivist of the University in 1978 and prepared several notable exhibitions of the University's history. In 1987 he traveled to Arusha, Tanzania where he spent one year developing a formal archive to aid historical research into the work of Catholic missionaries in the Diocese of Arusha.

He retired in 1993 and continued to live at Trinity Hall on campus. He has been a resident of Libermann Hall, Bethel Park since 2001.

Fr. Wersing was preceded in death by his parents John and Margaret Reott Wersing, his brothers Paul and Martin and sister Helen Kaufman. He is survived by his sisters Marian La Place and Margaret Wersing, and numerous nieces and nephews.

There will be viewing at The Spiritan Center, 6230 Brush Run Road, Bethel Park on Friday, August 25 from 2:00-4:00 and 7:00-9:00 PM where Mass of Resurrection will take place Saturday, August 26 at 10:00 AM. Burial will take place in Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington VA.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Holy Ghost Fathers, 6230 Brush Run Road, Bethel Park PA 15102.