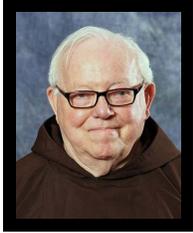


Necrology

Alfredo Gundrum

1941-2020



Lyle “Alfredo” Gundrum was born in Allenton, WI in 1941. Alfredo spoke fondly of his family life, and mentioned specifically his father who loved to sing. Alfredo inherited a good singing voice from his dad. He often would lead our community in a chanted version of the Song of the Three Young Men, on feast days and Sunday 1 in the breviary.

Alfredo was a beloved pastor in three parishes in Chicago. He spent many years at St. Kevin’s. He mentioned that this was his happiest time as a friar. The people loved Alfredo wherever he ministered, and his approach to parish ministry was about building community. He opened his door and his heart, like our brother Solanus, to all who came to him. Paula, the woman who received the healing miracle that led to Solanus’ beatification, speaks very lovingly about Alfredo who welcomed her to Chicago on her first visit. She now prays *to* him as well as *for* him.

Our brother Richard Hart, a cousin, notes: “His rectory was open to all people and it looked like Grand Central Station at times. He was an avid Packer fan in a Chicago Bear environment. Alfredo was devoted to his Capuchin way of life and told me one time that I inspired him to become a Capuchin.” Paul Schmitz speaks of his ministry in Nicaragua under difficult circumstances and says simply: “I feel honored to have had him as my Capuchin brother.”

Alfredo enjoyed life and had many friends. He loved to eat with friends, and he also was an avid fisherman. He loved to sneak out to a casino now and then with friends. He was an avid Packer fan even when ministering in Chicago. He was known to go to Chicago Bear games when they played the Packers. He would sit with his parishioners dressed in Packer colors and loudly cheering. Alfredo as a person who enjoyed being with people, and he treated everyone the same. A friar noted, upon hearing of his death, “I never heard Alfredo speak negatively about anyone.....never.” I believe that our brother was “under-appreciated” by some of the friars. So many of our brothers lovingly serve the People of God without any fanfare and Alfredo was one of those. All who encountered him, however, soon realized what a special friar and priest he was. Love and joy flowed out of him. The love of the People of God, wherever he ministered, is witness to this.

Toward the end of his life Alfredo struggled with heart problems and diabetes, and succumbed to COVID-19 on December 16, 2020.

~ Michael Sullivan