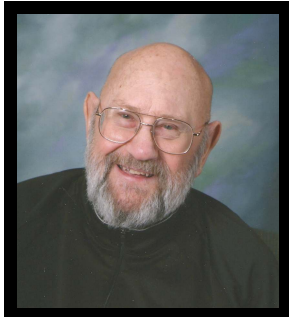


# Necrology

Robert Wheelock  
1936-2020



Bob was born in 1936, the son of Leslie and Cecilia (née Meyers) in Cherokee, Iowa. He was invested in the Capuchin habit in 1957, perpetually professed in 1961, and ordained a priest in 1964. Bob served as a hospital chaplain in Detroit and Milwaukee. He also ministered as a faculty member of St. Lawrence Seminary and as a retreat center preacher. He was a spiritual director at St. Lawrence Seminary as well. Many student alumni wrote tributes to him upon hearing of his death. One of them was a deacon at his funeral mass. In 1995, he co-founded Franciscan Peacemakers with Michael Sullivan, an outreach street ministry in Milwaukee.

Bob was a restless sort. I also believe that he was under appreciated by many in the community. Bob and I founded Franciscan Peacemakers street ministry, which continues to this day reaching out to the homeless and poor, and sexually exploited people. He had many talents, and in our pastoral ministry to the central city streets in Milwaukee Bob shone brightly. The homeless and broken people of the streets were drawn to him like a magnet. He was everybody's friend, brother, father and grandfather. Everyone loved him. All of the people saw his smile, his jovial spirit, and his fearlessness in dealing with the dark shadows in the world of homelessness and addiction. I recall one time in particular when he and I discovered that one of the women we were working with had relapsed and was in one of the local crack houses. Bob led the charge! We walked in, identified ourselves, and walked out of the place with the relapsed woman. Our guardian angels were working overtime that night.

Bob also struggled with a lot of health issues, perhaps paying too much attention to every possible symptom. That said, he did have major health challenges in his final years. He accepted his condition as a man of faith. "I'm ready" he would often say. It was a privilege to have known him and ministered with him.

Albert Sandor shared some memories of Bob as well:

All knew Bob and he would bring gifts to them from his many trips. He brought me gifts from the Holy Land---also for our neighbors. He helped, reached out had answers and solutions for you---and your struggles or pain right away. You did not have to wait for days. He knew the people, phone numbers, to call---all contacts were his fingertips. He was loved and enjoyed by so many people. He was truly a delightful person with a great personality. I know he had his own struggles and pain which he used to help. Many people not knowing he had the same pain and trials that they had.

Bob died in Appleton WI on August 1, 2020 at the age of 83.

~Michael Sullivan