

# Rev. Paul A. Miller, C.Ss.R.

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## Obituary for Rev. Paul A. Miller, C.Ss.R.

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Rev. Paul Augustine Miller, C.Ss.R.

August 26, 1934 - September 12, 2016

Dedicated Parish Priest and Popular Retreat Director

Former pastor of the Church of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Port Ewen, NY

Rev. Paul Augustine Miller was born to Augustine and Frieda (Fischer) Miller on August 26, 1934 in Milford Square, PA. From his earliest years, Paul expressed a desire to follow in the footsteps of his uncle, the Rev. Leonard Miller, C.Ss.R., and become a priest. He was attracted to Uncle Lennie's Redemptorist habit and the fifteen-decade rosary that hung around his waist.

To fulfill this dream, Paul entered the minor seminary of St. Mary College (North East, PA) for four years of high school and two years of college. Upon graduation he entered the novitiate (Ilchester, MD) after which Frater Paul professed his first vows as a Redemptorist on August 2, 1957. He continued his studies at Mt. St. Alphonsus (Esopus, NY) where he made his perpetual profession on September 1, 1960 and then was ordained a priest by Francis Cardinal Spellman on June 17, 1962.

Father Paul's first priestly assignment was to the then Vice-Province of Campo Grande (Brazil) where he spent seven years preaching the Gospel and helping many to deepen their relationship with God. Upon returning to the Baltimore Province he served in various parishes - St. Michael (Baltimore, MD), Our Lady of Perpetual Help (Bradford, VT), and St. Gerard (Lima, OH). When a plea for assistance came from the then Oakland Province, Father Paul quickly volunteered to "go West" where he faithfully served for eleven years as pastor in two parishes - Sacred Heart (Seward, AK) and St. Thomas (Coeur d'Alene, ID).

Upon completion of these assignments, Father Paul returned to the Hudson Valley where he served as pastor of Church of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Port Ewen, NY) for nine years. He was the last Redemptorist pastor of this parish, as it was returned to the care of the Archdiocese of New York in 1999. According to Father Gene Grohe, C.Ss.R., pastor of Sacred Heart (Esopus, NY), parishioners still remember Father Paul as a humble and holy priest.

Father Paul's last assignment was to Notre Dame Retreat House (Canandaigua, NY), where he lived and worked for 17 years. Not only was he a popular retreat preacher, but he also served as the spiritual director for many religious in the area. According to Father Frank Jones, superior of Notre Dame, Father Paul had a host of other talents and interests. He loved the outdoors where he could fish and hunt. He had a "green thumb" that was put to good use as he did all the gardening and lawn care at Notre Dame. On the retreat

grounds he built a pond and stocked it with fish so that the people would have one more quiet place to meditate and deepen their sense of God's presence. He loved history, especially that of the American Catholic Church; he was an accomplished artist; he built and flew model airplanes; he was quite adept in Native American bead art, making moccasins and belts; and he even taught himself to play the banjo.

As Father Paul's health began to decline at the beginning of this year, he withdrew from his much loved outdoor activities, but continued to fulfill his duties at the retreat house. Six weeks ago, he was diagnosed with aggressive pancreatic cancer. Knowing that his time on earth was coming to an end, he requested a transfer to the Redemptorist health facility of St. John Neumann Residence at Stella Maris (Timonium, MD) where he received great care until death on September 12, 2016.

Visitation will be held from 12pm to 1:00 pm Friday, September 16, 2016 in the antechamber of Stella Maris Chapel, Timonium, MD, with the funeral Mass at 1:00 p.m. Burial to follow Mass at St. Clement Mission House, Ephrata, PA.

Father Paul is survived by his brother Ed, three nephews, two nieces, and their families.

He was a faithful Redemptorist, a dedicated priest, and rector.

Requiescat in Pace.

# Father Paul Miller, CSSR, 82; retreat preacher, spiritual director | Catholic News & Multimedia | Diocese of Rochester

[catholiccourier.com/articles/father-paul-miller-cssr-82-retreat-preacher-spiritual-director](http://catholiccourier.com/articles/father-paul-miller-cssr-82-retreat-preacher-spiritual-director)



Father Paul Miller, CSSR, 82; retreat preacher, spiritual director

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Category: Obituaries

Redemptorist Father Paul Augustine Miller, a familiar face at Notre Dame Retreat House in Canandaigua for the last 17 years, died Sept. 12, 2016, after a short battle with pancreatic cancer. He was 82 years old.

Father Miller was born in 1934 in Milford Square, Pa. As a young boy he was inspired by the example of his uncle, Redemptorist Father Leonard Miller, and soon discerned his own calling to become a Redemptorist priest.

He studied at St. Mary College in North East, Pa., and Mount St. Alphonsus in Esopus, N.Y., and professed his first vows as a Redemptorist on Aug. 2, 1957. He made his perpetual profession of vows on Sept. 1, 1960, and was ordained to the Redemptorist priesthood by Cardinal Francis J. Spellman on June 17, 1962.

After his ordination, Father Miller spent seven years at the Redemptorists' mission in Campo Grande, Brazil. After returning to the United States, he continued his pastoral ministry at St. Michael Parish in Baltimore, Md.; Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Bradford, Vt.; St. Gerard Parish in Lima, Ohio; Sacred Heart Parish in Seward, Alaska; St. Thomas Parish in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho; and Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Port Ewen, N.Y.

Father Miller began his ministry at the Redemptorists' Notre Dame Retreat House in 1999. There he preached at numerous retreats and served as spiritual director for many men and women religious in the area. An avid gardener, he not only took care of the retreat house's lawns and gardens, but also built a pond on the grounds and stocked it with fish, according to Redemptorist Father Frank Jones, rector at Notre Dame. Father Jones and the retreat house's staff plan to establish a prayer garden on the grounds -- most likely by the pond -- in memory of Father Miller.

Father Miller is survived by his brother, Ed Miller, as well as three nephews and their families.

Father Miller's funeral Mass was celebrated Sept. 16, 2016, at Stella Maris in Timonium, Md. Interment was at St. Clement Mission House in Ephrata, Pa.

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