

CATHOLIC
DIOCESE OF SUPERIOR

April 6, 2016

Dear Fathers, Deacons, Sisters, Parish Directors, Staff and friends,

REV. WILLIAM F. SPEERSTRA, age 83, passed away, Tuesday, April 5, 2016, at his home in Minocqua, WI. FATHER BILL was born on December 4, 1932, to Walter and Clara (Kuyawa) Speerstra, in Steven's Point, WI.

Funeral Arrangements for FR. BILL include visitation at Holy Family Church, 8950 County Road J, Woodruff, WI, on Monday, April 11, 2016, beginning at 9:30 a.m. until the 11:00 a.m. Mass of Christian Burial. Bishop James Powers will preside with the priests of the Diocese of Superior celebrating. The date of FR. BILL'S burial in St. Stephen's Cemetery, Stevens Point, WI, is not known at this time. Arrangements are by the Bolger Funeral and Cremation Services, Woodruff.

FR. BILL is survived by his sister, Gretchen of Madison, WI. He was preceded in death by his mother, Clara. FR. BILL attended Jefferson Public Elementary School and St. Stephen High School in Stevens Point. He then attended St. Francis Seminary, Milwaukee and St. Lawrence Seminary, Mt Calvary. FR. BILL loved northern WI, partly due to the nature and environment and while in high school worked during the summer months to get to know the area better. His request to permanently move to northern WI and the Diocese of Superior came to fruition when he requested a release from the Diocese of La Crosse and was 'adopted' by the Bishop of the Diocese of Superior to serve as a priest upon the completion of the requirements of the priesthood.

FR. BILL was a very dedicated priest who was well liked, well respected and very willing to assist wherever there was a need. He was a quiet man but his list of one-liners is one of the great memories of him. In February of 1977, he had surgery to correct a popliteal (behind the knee) femoral aneurysm. FR. BILL'S remarks at that time were '*Obviously, the good Father has been spending too much time on his knees!*' On his funeral and burial instruction sheet, FR. BILL didn't indicate any readings or special music but instead wrote '*No preference - I won't be listening*'.

FR. BILL was academically attuned and well qualified in his work with emotionally disturbed children. He was also an excellent school counselor and the students loved him.

Below is a summary of FR. BILL'S Pastoral and Diocesan appointments:

May 30, 1959	Ordination to the Sacred Order of the Priesthood, Cathedral of Christ the King, Superior, by Bishop Joseph J. Annabring
June 18, 1959	<i>Assistant Pastor</i> for St. Joseph Parish, Rhinelander
November 6, 1961	<i>Assistant Pastor</i> for St. Bridget's Parish, River Falls
September 21, 1962	<i>Assistant Vocations' Director</i> of Douglas County

June 5, 1963 University of MN; classes for Guidance and Counseling
Assistant Pastor for St. Patrick's Parish, Hudson

August 20, 1963 *Part time Assistant Pastor* for St. Anthony Parish, Superior
Cathedral High School, Guidance and Counseling

July 1964 *Chaplain*, St. Joseph Children's Home/Catholic Charities Bureau
Cathedral High School, Guidance and Counseling

March 16, 1965 Continue as *Assistant Vocations' Director* of Douglas County

June 18, 1969 *Associate Pastor* for Immaculate Conception Parish, Rhinelander,
St. James of Monico, Mission and St. John, Pelican Lake

July 15, 1969 *Deanery Moderator* of the Diocesan Councils of Catholic Men and
Women in Rhinelander Deanery

December 5, 1969 *Consultant* for Development and Coordination Marriage Preparation
Program

July 21, 1970 *Temporary Administrator* for St. Francis de Sales Parish, Spooner and St.
Joseph Mission, Trego

August 18, 1970 *Pastor* for St. Patrick's Parish, Superior

November 18, 1970 *Diocesan Chaplain* of Catholic Boy Scouting

December 10, 1974 *Pastor* for St. John Parish, Sheldon and St. Michael Mission, Jump River

August 30, 1977 Holy Trinity Mission, Conrath *added to the cluster of Sheldon and Jump River.*

March 25, 1989 *Pro-Synodal Examiner* of the Diocese of Superior

June 19, 1984 *Pastor* for St. Paul the Apostle Parish, Catawba and St. John's Mission,
Prentice

June 30, 1985 Appointed to Priest Personnel Placement Board

January 17, 1989 *Pastor* for St. Albert Parish, Land O'Lakes, and St. Mary Parish, Phelps

July 1, 1980 Re-appointed to Priest Personnel Placement Board

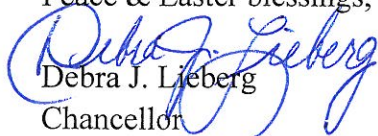
June 1, 1998 Retired from priestly active ministry

Please keep FR. SPEERSTRA and his family and friends in your thoughts and prayers.

*Eternal rest grant unto FR. BILL SPEERSTRA, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him.
May he rest in peace. Amen.*

Members of the Purgatorial Society are asked to please offer the customary three Masses for the repose of the soul of REV. WILLIAM F. SPEERSTRA.

Peace & Easter blessings,


Debra J. Lieberg
Chancellor