



## Reverend William F Speerstra

April 5, 2016

Father William F. Speerstra

December 4, 1932 – April 5, 2016

Rev. William Frederick Speerstra, age 83, passed away Tuesday, April 5, 2016, at his home in Minocqua, Wisconsin. Fr. Bill was born on December 4, 1932, to Walter and Clara (Kujawa) Speerstra, in Steven's Point, Wisconsin.

The funeral was held at Holy Family Catholic Church, 8950 County Road J, Woodruff, on Monday, April 11th. Visitation was held from 9:30 a.m. until the 11:00 a.m. funeral service, with Bishop James Powers presiding. Burial took place in St. Stephen's Cemetery, Stevens Point.

Fr. Bill is survived by his sister, Gretchen, of Madison, WI. He was preceded in death by his mother, Clara. Fr. He attended St. Stephen's Elementary School and graduated from PJ Jacobs High School in Steven's Point. He then attended St. Lawrence Seminary in Mt. Calvary and St. Francis Seminary in Milwaukee. Fr. Bill loved northern Wisconsin, partly due to the nature and environment and while in high school he worked during the summer months to get to know the area better. His request to permanently move to northern Wisconsin and the Diocese of Superior came to fruition when he requested a release from the Diocese of La Cross 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 knee replacement surgery. 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 did not 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.

After serving as pastor for St. Albert Parish in Land O'Lakes, and St. Mary Parish in Phelps, Fr. Bill retired from priestly active ministry on June 1, 1998.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Pius Priest's Fund, Diocese of Superior, WI or Northwoods Wildlife Center, Minocqua, WI.

# Cemetery Details

## St. Stephans Cemetery

Stevens Point, WI

# Previous Events

## Visitation

APR 11. 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Holy Family Catholic Church  
8950 County J  
Woodruff, WI 54568  
(715) 356-6284  
<http://www.holyfamilywoodruff.org>

## Mass of Christian Burial

APR 11. 11:00 AM (CT)

Holy Family Catholic Church  
8950 County J  
Woodruff, WI 54568  
(715) 356-6284  
<http://www.holyfamilywoodruff.org>

# Tribute Wall

RP

“ Gretchen--

*I doubt if you recall my name but the Speerstra name came up almost every time my aunt Mert and Blanche visited at our home, over the years. Your brother was the topic of many conversations since I can remember, and we were both of the same vintage, since I am now 85yrs. I always wanted to meet "Billy" but we never met. The irony, however, comes now when I read of his passing in the Lakeland Times: you see, I now have summered in the Minocqua area for the past nearly 50 years, not knowing that "Father" Bill was so close! Nevertheless, I feel that I knew him, and am deeply sorrowed by his passing. I sincerely believe that we will, eventually, meet in the presence of "our Father".*  
*Sincerely, Robert W. Pointer MD*

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**Robert W. Pointer** - April 15, 2016 at 02:14 PM

HJ

“ *Father Speerstra served in Jump River when my husband and I were first married. Although I was Presbyterian, I often attended mass with my husband, too. It was there that Father Speerstra advised his flock to "travel lightly through life." He explained how and why this should be done, and I have always remembered and valued this advice even 32 years later. He was an admirable priest.*  
*Joyce and Vincent Hoehn (now of Manitowish Waters)*

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**Hoehn Joyce** - April 11, 2016 at 09:01 PM

NL

“ *I remember the one-liners he wrote on Christmas cards to my parents as mom was one of his classmates in Point. Glad to see he kept his sense of humor until the end.*

*Nancy Lind*

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**Nancy Lind** - April 11, 2016 at 09:18 AM