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Father Francis Lery Wendling

Oct 21, 2017



Father Francis Lery Wendling, OFM, a native of Olpe, Kan., died Monday, October 16, 2017 at Our Lady of the Angels Friary in Ava, Mo. He was 83 years old and a Franciscan friar for 65 years. Born in Olpe, Fr. Francis attended St. Joseph Elementary School and completed high school at St. Joseph High School before attending St. Francis Seminary in Cincinnati, Ohio one year before joining the Order in 1952. Ordained to the priesthood at St. Leonard College on June 14, 1962, Fr. Francis served the communities of St. Louis, Batesville, Ind., Christ the King in Shiprock, N.M., St. Anthony in Zuni, N.M., Sacred Heart in Calumet, Mich., Sacred Heart in Emporia, Kan., St. Joseph, Kansas City, Mo., St. Mary, Bloomington, Ill., St. Patrick, Galveston, Tex., Parroquia de San Francisco d'Assis, Juarez, Mexico and Our Lady of the Angels Friary in Ava, Mo. He was devoted to ministry in the Cursillo Movement and the Charismatic Renewal, and was specially touched by the plight of immigrants along the Texas border.

Preceded in death by his parents, Seraphin and Anna (Fitzpatrick) Wendling and his sister, Theresa Wendling Coble; he is survived by his religious brothers and his remaining seven siblings: Marie Wendling Russell of Emporia, Kan., Seraphin Wendling, Lucille Wendling Trear, Joseph J. Wendling and Dorothy Wendling Blaufuss of Olpe, Kan., John E. Wendling of Topeka, Kan., and Betty Wendling Lutz of Wylie, Tex.

Funeral Liturgy will take place at St. Joseph Church, 308 Iowa Street, Olpe, Kan. 66865 at 10:00 AM Tuesday, October 24, 2017. The family will receive friends from 9:00 AM until the time of service. Memorials may be made to FriarWorks, 1615 Vine St., Cincinnati, OH 45202 or to Casa Asis de Francisca Alonzo AC, Avenida Valle del Sol 1754, C.D. Juárez, Chih., Mexico. +52 656 208 7300. Condolences to the family may be sent online through the funeral home website; www.robertsblue.com. Roberts-Blue-Barnett Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.