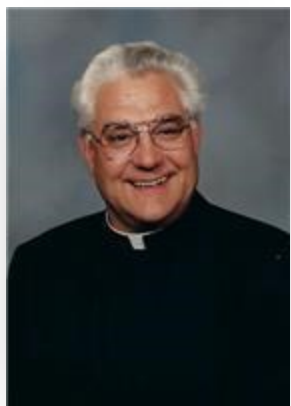


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# Leonard F. Wilkuski

1937 - 2022



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**BORN** 1937

**DIED** 2022

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## Leonard Wilkuski Obituary

**L**eonard F. Wilkuski, mentor to many, friend to many more, died peacefully at his home in East Tawas on Tuesday, Jan. 25, 2022, going home – we hope, pray and believe – to the heart of our Loving God. Leonard was born in Omer on April 29, 1937, eldest child of Frank Joseph and Stephanie (Majeski) Wilkuski. He was always proud of his Polish ancestry and his East Tawas roots.

Leonard graduated from high school and continued his educational journey at universities in Canada and Belgium, receiving graduate degrees in both philosophy and theology. His European experiences left him with a lifelong appreciation for Belgium, travel and the vocation of academic theology. He, however, also believed that a solid academic background was the best preparation for caring pastoral ministry and service.

For nearly 40 years, Leonard served God's people in parish ministry throughout the Catholic Diocese of Saginaw, in each of the Tri-Cities, the Thumb, and at his initial pastorate in Omer. He also returned to Belgium to serve on the staff of the American College in Louvain.

Leonard loved the people, scripture and the sacraments, parish work and ministry. He was, in turn, loved by the people

he served for his easy-going manner, down to earth approach, warm hospitality and generous caring for everyone including youth and the downtrodden.

When his parish ministry ended, Leonard began serving as a volunteer prison chaplain, once again displaying his care for all including those on the margins, his love of scripture and pastoral service, and his ability to bring Gospel healing, hope and joy to God's people. His return to East Tawas also afforded him an opportunity to serve as part of the Iosco County Historical Society.

An avid fisherman all his life, Leonard loved stories, telling them and listening to them. A tale of foolishness, fun, foibles or fishing always found a ready ear as he would welcome you to his home and hearth wherever it was at the time. And the stories he enjoyed were often repeated, even embellished. But he also much enjoyed and would eagerly join a discussion of scripture (and its stories), theology and pastoral practice.

He loved sharing the blessings of good food, good drink and good company and he will be missed by many in all of the various places he called home.

He is survived by one brother, James (Joyce) Wilkuski of Idaho.

May our loving God now welcome Len to his heavenly home.

Funeral services were held, Monday, Jan. 31, at 11 a.m. at Holy Family Catholic Church in East Tawas.

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