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Michael Kolar

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Obituary published on Legacy.com by Willwerscheid Funeral Home & Cremation Service - Grand Avenue Chapel on Nov. 16, 2024.

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Michael Kolar, 81, died peacefully on November 9, 2024, surrounded by his beloved family. He was preceded in death by his parents, Neil and Dorothy Kolar; his sister, Mary Anne Mullen (Jim); and his nephew, Andrew Kolar. He is survived by his loving wife Vera and children, Katerina and Andrew; his brother, James (Anne) and his nieces and nephews, Andrea (Wayne), Joshua (Laura), Daniel (Clare), Christina, Mark (Carmen), Liz (Travis); his brother-in law Bob Mandybur and many dear grand nieces and nephews (Jack, Eli, Nica, Gideon, Amos, Shiloh, Benaiah, Mary Grace, Wayne, James, Rosie, David and Joseph).

Michael was a man deeply connected to the world around him. The mountains were his sanctuary, a place where he felt truly alive. "This is livin'," he'd loudly proclaim as he hiked along a scenic trail. When inspiration struck during walks, bike rides, hikes, or while cross country skiing, he would pause to share a favorite poem by Gerard Manley Hopkins, Robert Frost, or William Blake. He infused those special moments with his unique sense of wonder and appreciation for life's beauty. He tirelessly drove us on countless trips to National Parks in our tan Toyota Sienna van, with the voices of books on tape as our constant companions. Our hikes and camping trips were filled with adventure: encountering bears, moose, and mountain goats on the trails; swimming in cool mountain lakes and rivers; and climbing up mountainsides, clinging to nothing but a single rope.

He possessed an extraordinary gift for listening and made people feel heard, valued, and deeply understood. He was playful and gentle, ready with a joke, pun, or a kind word. He found mirth easily and could even make himself laugh. OH THE LAUGH when Michael laughed it filled any room and even our entire neighborhood.

Michael was a man of deep convictions. He marched alongside Martin Luther King Jr., standing up for justice and equality with unwavering resolve. His faith in God and the teachings of scripture were the cornerstones of his life. He lived these principles daily, treating everyone he met with respect. He made us feel supported, heard, and profoundly loved every single day. Michael was the heart of his family.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 11 a.m. with family visitation at 10 a.m. on Friday, November 22, 2024, at St. Victoria's Historic Catholic Church, 8228 Victoria Drive, Victoria, Minnesota. Luncheon following the Mass in Elstan Hall at St. Victoria's. Private interment will take place at Gethsemane Cemetery at a later date.

If you wish to honor Michael with a donation, you might consider donating to:

Sharing and Caring Hands, a non-profit that compassionately responds to the needs of the poor

Friends of the Boundary Waters

"The woods are lovely, dark and deep,

But I have promises to keep,

And miles to go before I sleep, And miles to go before I sleep"

- Robert Frost, Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening

To plant trees in memory, please visit the [Sympathy Store](#).

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RECENT ACTIVITY

November 22, 2024 **Duane Pribuls** posted to the memorial.

November 21, 2024 **Mark Spencer** posted to the memorial.

November 20, 2024 **Gerald Mahon** planted trees.

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Duane Pribuls November 22, 2024

Mike was a marvelous gentleman and an enthusiastic proclaimer of the Gospel of Christ Jesus. I was one year below him at St. Paul Seminary; and I still remember his joy in living...his broad smile and chuckling laughter as we walked the campus. It was my privilege to enjoy one of his retreats; years later I met Mike at the Mn Children's Museum and we exchanged hugs. May Christ Jesus welcome Mike into the Joys of Heaven!!

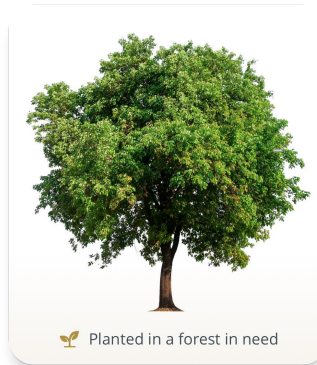
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Mark Spencer November 21, 2024

Here's the whole poem <https://bit.ly/3UZlCHJ> really reminds me of Mike!

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**Tom Esch** November 17, 2024

Mike Kolar was an inspiration to me and to many, many others. His extraordinary gift for preaching, leading and creating community was like no other I've known. I'll never forget the many times at camp throwing a football, or playing volleyball, or just goofing around. He, more than any priest, inspired me to seek ordination. Blessings to his family and those who were closest to him....I'm sure you miss him terribly. I can still hear that laugh...

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**Mary Ricker** November 17, 2024

He gave much to many CYC

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Wonderful teaching of Jesus `s words

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