

# Fr. Jerry Zawada, OFM ¡PRESENTE!



April 28, 1937 ~ East Chicago, Indiana  
July 25, 2017 ~ Milwaukee, Wisconsin

## ☼ Welcome

*The Rev. Bart Smith, St. Mark's Presbyterian Church*

*Felice Cohen-Joppa*

## ☼ Invitation to the Altar

Song: Sacred Creation (text based on “The Canticle of Brother Sun”, by St. Francis of Assisi (1182-1226), adapted by Rufino Zaragoza (1990); Music by Rufino Zaragoza (1990)

## ☼ The Beatitudes

*Dorsett Edmonds*

## ☼ Jerry's court statement

*Laurie Melrood*

Jerry prepared this statement (but was not allowed to read it in Tucson Federal Court on 12/5/07) before being sent to prison for his first nonviolent action at Ft. Huachuca.

## ☼ “A not-so-young, younger friar’s remembrance of an elder friar”

*Br. David Buer*





## Song - How Can I Keep From Singing

*(Jerry's favorite song) with Charlie King and Ted Warmbrand*

My life flows on in endless song  
Above earth's lamentation  
I hear the real, though far off hymn  
That hails a new creation

Mid all the tumult and the strife  
I hear the music ringing;  
It sounds an echo in my soul  
How can I keep from singing?

What through the tempest loudly roars  
I hear the truth, it liveth  
What through the darkness round me close  
Songs in the night it giveth

No storm can shake my inmost calm  
While to that rock I'm clinging  
If love is lord of heaven and earth  
How can I keep from singing?

When tyrants tremble, sick with fear  
And hear their death-knell ringing  
When friends rejoice both far and near  
How can I keep from singing?

In prison cell or dungeon vile  
Our thoughts to them are winging  
When friends by shame are undefiled  
How can I keep from singing?

## ☼ Jerry Zawada ;Presente! Call and Response

Recognizing some of the many struggles that, throughout his life, moved Jerry both to contemplation and action. Each reader will describe Jerry's work, then, after the gong, will make a call, to which we will respond...

### POVERTY AND HOMELESSNESS

*Jim Walsh*

*Call* (Jim): When we feed the hungry, clothe the naked and house the homeless,

*Response* (All): We celebrate the life of Jerry Zawada!



### TORTURE

*Leonardo Maturana*

*Call* (Leonardo): When we speak out against torture and accompany the survivors,

*Response* (All): We celebrate the life of Jerry Zawada!

### MIGRANTS

*Fr. Bob Carney*

*Call* (Bob): When we welcome and help the migrant and the refugee,

*Response* (All): We celebrate the life of Jerry Zawada!

## NUCLEAR WEAPONS

*Jack Cohen-Joppa*

**Call** (Jack): When we act for a nuclear-free future,

**Response** (All): We celebrate the life of Jerry Zawada!

## PRISON

*Sr. Lil Mattingly*

**Call** (Sr. Lil): When we support our brothers and sisters in prison,

**Response** (All): We celebrate the life of Jerry Zawada!





## **DRONE WARFARE**

*Brian Terrell*

**Call** (Brian) When we wage peace by resisting weapons that wage war,

**Response** (All): We celebrate the life of Jerry Zawada!

## **WOMEN PRIESTS**

*Rev. Janice Sevre-Duszynska*

**Call** (Janice): When we stand up for the rights of women who are called to the priesthood in the Roman Catholic Church

**Response** (All) We celebrate the life of Jerry Zawada!

## **PEACE AND JUSTICE**

*Julie Enslow*

**Call** (Julie): When we work to build a better world for all, a world of equality, love, justice and peace,

**Response** (All): We celebrate the life of Jerry Zawada!

## **Pax Christi Vow of Nonviolence**

*(the fourth knot on Jerry's rope)*

*Fr. Bill Rimmel*



## ☼ Words from Jerry

*Marking the 21st anniversary of the murder by Salvadoran death squads of four churchwomen, Sr. Ita Ford, Sr. Dorothy Kazel, Sr. Maura Clarke and Jean Donovan*

## Moment of Silence

## ☼ Song—This Little Light of Mine

*(with a special verse for Jerry)*

*with Charlie King and Ted Warmbrand*

## ☼ Refreshments & Storytelling

*Please quietly help yourself to refreshments while we share our stories about Jerry*

## ☼ Song—chorus of Sacred Creation

*with Sr. Ardeth Platte and Sr. Carol Gilbert*

Sacred the land, sacred the water

Sacred the sky, holy and true

Sacred all life, sacred each other

All reflect God who is good.

## ☼ Final words/benediction

*(spoken by all)*

With Jerry in our hearts, let us continue to shine a light in the world as we care for the earth, for each other and for all life, and work for peace and justice. Amen.



Jerome Alexander Zawada was born on April 28, 1937 in East Chicago, Indiana, the second of seven children to Polish immigrant parents. From a very young age, Jerry felt called to the priesthood, drawn to the compassion and values of Jesus, as well as the example of St. Francis of Assisi.



Jerry's secondary education was at a Franciscan minor seminary. He excelled academically, but was counseled not to join the priesthood because he was too rebellious. Nevertheless, he joined that community in 1955, and made his first vows a year later. He took his solemn vows in 1963, and was ordained a priest on June 13, 1964.

Fr. Zawada's first assignment was in the Philippines for seven years. After returning to the U.S., in 1971 he joined others in an intentional community, the Gospel Family, serving the poor on Chicago's north side. After a year-and-a-half leave of absence from the priesthood due to a severe clinical depression, he moved to Texas in 1983, where he studied Spanish and helped refugees fleeing the wars in Central America. The experience led to his political activism.

He was arrested for the first time in Chicago in 1984 while protesting CIA involvement in Nicaragua. At least 100 more arrests for peaceful protest followed, and he served five years in prison for his various acts of civil disobedience, including 25 months in the late 1980s for repeated trespass at nuclear missile silos in Missouri; three six-month prison sentences (2001, 2003, 2005) for trespass at the School of the Americas in Fort Benning Georgia, and two months in prison in 2007 after crossing the line to protest torture training at Fort Huachuca, Arizona.

His work with the homeless, war refugees and survivors of torture, and for a peaceful, just and nuclear-free world also brought him to Milwaukee, Las Vegas, Tucson and throughout the U.S., as well as to Mexico, Iraq, Israel, the West Bank and Guatemala. A few years ago, his advocacy for and celebration of a Eucharistic liturgy with women priests earned a disciplinary letter from the Vatican which removed him from ministry and directed him to "a life of prayer and penance" at the Queen of Peace Friary in Burlington, Wisconsin. He continued to periodically travel to peace and anti-nuclear actions around the country.

Jerry died at the Milwaukee, Wisconsin Catholic Home on July 25, 2017.



To read articles, obituaries and remembrances of Jerry,  
please go online to: **[bit.ly/JerryZawada](http://bit.ly/JerryZawada)**

*Readings included in today's celebration of life will also be added to this website post.*