



## Reverend Eugene A. McReynolds OSB

July 17, 1942 - August 5, 2021

Memorials to Mount Michael Benedictine Abbey.

Livestream available at: <https://webcasts.lifetributes.com/1154652>

Father Eugene McReynolds, O.S.B. died in his Abbey room on Thursday, August 5. Father Eugene was just over two weeks past his 79th birthday. His relentless drive and commitment to his support ministry make his passing so unexpected.

Father Eugene was born Clinton Andrew McReynolds, Jr. in Kansas City, Missouri on July 17, 1942. His parents are the late Clinton “Mac” and Marie (Shields) McReynolds. Father Eugene’s father worked for Northern Natural Gas as an engineer, so his work brought the family to Omaha, Nebraska where they settled in the Saint Philip Neri Catholic Church neighborhood. Following graduation from Saint Philip Neri Grade School, Father Eugene attended Sacred Heart High School earning his diploma in 1960.

Father Nelson Newman, who was associate pastor of Saint Philip Neri Catholic Church, suggested to Father Eugene that he do two years of college studies at Saint John Vianney Seminary (now Mount Michael Benedictine School). Father Eugene’s mother and his godmother Aunt Rita brought him to campus in the fall of 1960 where they met the school’s registrar Father Michael Malone, O.S.B. In Father Eugene’s own words: “It has been a journey ever since!”

Nearing the end of his second year, Father Eugene met with the Dean of

Students Father Paul Kelley, O.S.B. indicating his desire to join the community. As protocol required of someone who was considered a candidate of the diocese, Father Eugene had to discern his vocation while continuing his studies for one year at Immaculate Conception Seminary at Conception, Missouri. Father Eugene entered the novitiate of Mount Michael Abbey in 1963 and professed his first vows as a member of the community on July 25, 1964. Father Eugene returned to Immaculate Conception Seminary, graduating with a B.A. in 1965. Following graduation, Father Eugene spent one year teaching at Saint John Vianney Seminary. He completed his theological studies at Conception Seminary and was awarded an M.A. in Religious Education in May 1970. Father Eugene was ordained by Archbishop Daniel Sheehan on May 9, 1970.

After ordination, Father Eugene began a number of school-related assignments. He was a residential dean for ten years. Father Eugene taught religion, driver's education, and business classes. In 1974 he was awarded a Master's Degree in Business Education from the University of Wisconsin in Eau Claire.

A turning point in Father Eugene's life occurred in 1985 when he began to address his alcohol addiction. His desire for sobriety continued until his death. Seeking a fresh start, Father Eugene accepted Father Val Peter's invitation in 1986 to minister at Boys Town of Omaha. It was a bit of a strange twist as Father Eugene had taught religion classes there following his ordination as there weren't enough classes on the Mount Michael campus for the burgeoning monastic community to cover. Father Eugene's work at Boys Town included teaching religion classes in the high school, counseling, and working as a chaplain. The one-year contract was renewed for thirty-two years. Father Eugene's sobriety ministry extended well beyond Boys Town. He attended countless meetings and sponsored many who appreciated his gentle but firm guidance.

Fr. Eugene regularly ministered to the Notre Dame Sisters, the Poor Clare Sisters, and a number of senior living facilities in Omaha. When the

sacramental work was complete, he would stay long enough to visit with anyone who sought him out.

While at Boys Town, Father Eugene would faithfully return to the Abbey on Sunday for Evening Prayer, social, and dinner. He very much enjoyed the conversations and reconnecting with his community members. His family was a focal point and a source of great pride. Father Eugene was an avid reader and kept current with the latest movies. He enjoyed Memorial Stadium in Lincoln on game day with family and friends. Until a stroke curtailed his physical activities, Father Eugene would take time for water skiing, snow skiing, and tennis. Swimming remained a physical activity he continued as he found the water therapeutic in many ways. Father Eugene, Abbot Michael, Bro. Luke and Father Louis formed a bridge foursome on Saturday nights in the Abbey. The playful back and forth banter coupled with the fickle cards made for many memorable nights.

Each day after Morning Prayer Father Eugene would quickly vest for Mass and return to Chapel for Lectio Divina and spiritual reading. After ministering in town, he would arrive in time for Evening Prayer and supper only to return to town for another meeting. Father Eugene felt it was a blessing to be present for every funeral of all the departed monastic community members. Each time he passed the Mount Michael cemetery Fr. Eugene shared that he prayed: "Lord, have mercy on us all." We, too, are blest to partake in his Mass of Christian burial and ask the Lord: "Lord, have mercy on Fr. Eugene."

Fr. Eugene is survived by the community of Mount Michael Benedictine Abbey as well as his brother and sister-in-law Mike and Marilyn McReynolds, many nieces and nephews and extended family. Preceding him in death were his parents Clinton A. "Mac" and Marie McReynolds, sister Sr. Sally Ann McReynolds, N.D. and his brother and sister-in-law Tim and Jan McReynolds. Vigil Service will be on Friday, August 13 at 7:00 pm at Saint Patrick Catholic Church in Elkhorn. Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Saturday, August 14 at 1:00 pm at Saint Patrick Church in Elkhorn with interment in Mount

Michael Abbey Cemetery following the service. Memorials to Mount Michael Benedictine Abbey. Arrangements provided by Reichmuth Funeral Home.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

AUG 13. 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

St. Patrick's Catholic Church  
20405 W. Maple Rd.  
Elkhorn, NE 68022

## Wake Service

AUG 13. 7:00 PM (CT)

St. Patrick's Catholic Church  
20405 W. Maple Rd.  
Elkhorn, NE 68022

## Mass of the Christian Burial

AUG 14. 1:00 PM (CT)

St. Patrick's Catholic Church  
20405 W. Maple Rd.  
Elkhorn, NE 68022

# Tribute Wall



“ *Reichmuth Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Reverend Eugene A. McReynolds OSB*



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**Reichmuth Funeral Home** - August 11, 2021 at 12:52 PM



“ *Reverend Eugene A. McReynolds OSB*

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December 10, 2022 at 09:12 AM



“ *I was deeply saddened to learn of the death of Fr. Eugene. We served together for nearly 8 years at Boys Town. I was the Protestant Chaplain and worked side by side with Fr. Eugene. We became close friends and colleagues. He was indeed one of the most gracious, loving, caring people I have had the privilege to travel life pathway. He touched my life in so many ways. I will miss our breakfast chats at the Hy-Vee on 132nd. May God bless the journey of Fr. Eugene and surround his family with peace!*  
*Rev. Dr. Don Sarton*

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**Rev. Don Sarton** - August 16, 2021 at 01:42 PM

TD

“ Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again.

R.I.P.

Terry Dobmeier

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**Terry Dobmeier** - August 15, 2021 at 01:33 PM

MM

“ Fr. Gene enjoyed life as much or more than any person I have know.

God bless him. I am grateful that he was in my life.

michael mclaughlin

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**michael McLaughlin** - August 14, 2021 at 09:39 PM

SH

“ Father Eugene was a great confessor at Notre Dame and his Liturgies were beautiful. All of that and much more could be said of Father Eugene. What a gentle, kind and warm priest. I cried when I heard of Father's death. May he rest in peace and be blessed for all he has done for so many people. Thanks to Abbot Michael for letting Father Eugene come to Notre Dame so often. The Sisters and residents will remember Father with love. Gratefully, Sr. Mary Hlas

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**Sister Mary Hlas** - August 13, 2021 at 09:01 PM



“ Sweet Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Reverend Eugene A. McReynolds OSB.



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August 13, 2021 at 09:40 AM



“ Rest in peace, dear Fr. Eugene. Uncle Fr. Val is so happy to see you!  
Giant hug, Joani

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**Joan Noneman** - August 12, 2021 at 02:25 PM



“ I was blessed to have Fr Eugene to baptize my daughter and marry her mother and I. He was a gift to this world. A humble man of God.. he was. You could always feel the Holy Spirit talking through him as he preached his homilies. He will be forever missed. May we merrily meet in heaven 😊.

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**Jon Hursh** - August 12, 2021 at 11:35 AM



“ God bless and safe home Fr Gene. All your pizza pals will miss you.  
Jim Cavanaugh

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**jim cavanaugh** - August 12, 2021 at 10:01 AM



“ I have known Father since 1992 while working at Boys Town. He was a man of deep spiritual faith and commitment to the Lord. He loved kids and helped them in do many ways achieve success. Rest In Peace Father.

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**Dan Martin** - August 11, 2021 at 10:18 AM

MG

“ So glad to have spent time with Uncle Eugene recently at Aunt Jan’s celebration of life. As always, he infused each moment, meal and prayer with such love and grace.



Molly Gapp - August 10, 2021 at 06:43 PM

BH

“ Bob & Jessica Huber purchased the Peace Eternal Wreath for the family of Reverend Eugene A. McReynolds OSB.



Bob & Jessica Huber - August 09, 2021 at 04:02 PM

JS

“ Jerry and Mary Shields purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Reverend Eugene A. McReynolds OSB.



Jerry and Mary Shields - August 09, 2021 at 12:51 PM

RJ

“ Had the privilege of not only knowing Fr. Gene at Boys Town , but I was also employed at Brighton Gardens when his parents Mac and Marie were residents there , where he came every week to say mass for all the residents !  
I later visited him following his stroke . After we moved to Iowa , I didn't see him very often !  
May he now rest in peace as he joins our Boys Town family in heaven !  
Ronny Lee Jenkins , BT class of 1967 .

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**Ronny Lee Jenkins** - August 09, 2021 at 12:49 PM

JS

“ I remember Father Eugene well from his days saying 8:00 Sunday Mass at Boys Town. What a wonderful priest and caring man he was. Rest in peace, dear Father Eugene.  
Sincerely,  
Judy Stowell

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**Judy Stowell** - August 08, 2021 at 11:02 AM