



Father Jim Lothamer

November 9, 1942 - November 1, 2019

Father James Lothamer, PSS, PhD, passed into the warm embrace of eternal love on November 1, 2019 on All Saints Day, at the age of 76. Born James William Lothamer in Coldwater, MI on November 9, 1942 to John and Helen (Cox) Lothamer, he was the second child of a family of 14 siblings.

As a young man, he attended Coldwater St. Charles School before entering St. Charles Seminary in Columbus, Ohio where he received his undergraduate degree. He completed his seminary training at St. John's Seminary in Plymouth, MI. Prior to his ordination to the priesthood, he joined the Society of St. Sulpice, a French order of priest teachers that conducted higher education for priests and lay ministers throughout the world.

Fr. Jim was assigned to St. Mary's College in Baltimore, MD, where he remained for 20 years of his ministry. While in his teaching and administrative duties at St. Mary's he took a sabbatical to the University of Toronto where he earned doctorate degrees in Theology and Philosophy.

Returning to Michigan in the early 1990's, Fr. Lothamer served as Pastor and Intermediate Pastor at the following Churches: St. Joseph, Adrian; St. Agnes, Fowlerville; St. John Student Chapel, East Lansing; St. Mary, Pinckney; St. Mary, Charlotte; St. Ann, Bellevue; St. Mary, Bronson; St. Mary, Morrice. Each parish brought new friends and relationships that he cherished and

maintained. A three-year interim was spent in Menlow Park, CA, as director of a Sulpician Retreat Center for Catholic Priest.

A long life of servitude and involvement as a priest, teacher, friend, and family member, Fr. Lothamer led a life focusing on the importance of community, social action, and the mystical love of God. He was always generous with his intellect and resources, and his homilies are noted for the deep and powerful teaching truths that pervaded his texts.

Among Fr. Lothamer's loves were company, study, travel and family ancestry. Connecting his American family with their European counterparts through his language skills, he cemented family ties. He delighted in sitting in the French/German countryside sharing conversations and a glass of wine with his European cousins.

Fr. Jim was well loved by his large family. He knew each person from the oldest to the youngest and, as one nephew shared, "He was always nearby." Fr. Lothamer's life journey involved prayer, knowledge and heart. He will be missed by all who benefited from his ministry and presence. Fr. Jim is survived by his sisters, Susanne Colligan, Sharon Harrington, Rose Bonvillain, and Helen Malinowski; his brothers, Peter, Jesse, Timothy, Simon, Joseph, Patrick, Jerry, and Christopher. He was preceded in death by his brother, Jack; and his parents.

Friends are encouraged to pay tribute to Fr. Jim during the following services. A Rosary will be held at 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 7, 2019 at the St. Agnes Catholic Church in Fowlerville, MI. Visitation will follow from 5-7:00 p.m. and a Vigil Service at 7:00 p.m. A second visitation will be held on Friday, November 8, 2019, at the St. Agnes Catholic Church in Fowlerville, from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. followed by the Funeral Mass at 6:30 p.m. A third visitation will be held on Saturday, November 9, 2019 from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. at St. Ann Catholic

Church in Bellevue (Fr. Jim's birthday) with a Prayer Service at 10:30.
Interment will follow the Prayer Service at Riverside Cemetery in Bellevue, MI.

If desired, the family suggests memorial contributions be made to The Lothamer Family Burse of Zambia, checks payable to The Society of St. Sulpice. Cards may be sent to the St. Agnes Catholic Church in Fowlerville. Friends and family are asked to share memories of Fr. James Lothamer on his Tribute Page at www.PrayFuneral.com. The family is in the care of Pray Funeral Home, Charlotte.

Cemetery Details

Riverside Cemetery - Bellevue

201 Main St
Bellevue, MI 49021

Previous Events

Rosary

NOV 7. 4:30 PM (ET)

St Agnes Catholic Church Fowlerville, MI
855 East Grand River Ave
Fowlerville, MI 48836

Visitation

NOV 7. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

St Agnes Catholic Church Fowlerville, MI
855 East Grand River Ave
Fowlerville, MI 48836

Vigil

NOV 7. 7:00 PM (ET)

St Agnes Catholic Church Fowlerville, MI
855 East Grand River Ave
Fowlerville, MI 48836

Visitation

NOV 8. 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM (ET)

St Agnes Catholic Church Fowlerville, MI
855 East Grand River Ave
Fowlerville, MI 48836

Mass

NOV 8. 6:30 PM (ET)

St Agnes Catholic Church Fowlerville, MI
855 East Grand River Ave
Fowlerville, MI 48836

Visitation

NOV 9. 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM (ET)

St. Ann Catholic Church
312 S. Main St.
Bellevue, MI 49021

Prayer Service

NOV 9. 10:30 AM (ET)

St. Ann Catholic Church
312 S. Main St.
Bellevue, MI 49021

Tribute Wall



“ *Pray Funeral Home, Inc created a Webcast in memory of Father Jim Lothamer*



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - November 07, 2019 at 11:46 AM

MW

Sometimes you never know the value of a moment until it becomes a memory. Beautifully true.

Mike Wilson - November 08, 2019 at 06:58 PM

LA

The position of the camera was to deep down, some people disturb the picture because of standig in the view. Please think about my remarks, please act soon to offer first class customer service. With kind regards Andrzej

LOTHAMER Andrzej - November 08, 2019 at 08:28 PM

DS

“ *"Jim touched the lives of so many people!" and "Jim loved to be a Lothamer!" YES, all the spoken words on the funeral are so right. Jim, we will never forget you!
Your Lothammer-family of the Odenwald in Hesse-Darmstadt,
Antonia Lothammer and your Cousin Dirk*

Dirk Strohmenger - November 08, 2019 at 08:31 PM

MG

“ Jim, my dear friend and cousin. We have met for a first time when I was a teenager, today I´m 50+. We were close all this years and met very often. These were always very special moments. All this turned into memories, great memories. This days I am so sad, but I´m so happy, that there are so many people from all over, your family and a wide circle of friends, who share so many memories, great memories of you and with you.

Auf Wiedersehen mein lieber Freund und Cousin. Dein Matthias



Matthias Lothhammer, Germany - November 08, 2019 at 05:47 PM

AJ

“ Our family has many loving memories of Fr Jim. Baptisms, First Communion, Confirmations plus he always made time to come to special family celebrations. We were fortunate to go on a European trip with him leading a group through the German, French & Italian countryside visiting many cathedrals. He was the officiant for my Mother’s funeral. We will always remember his wonderful homilies that spoke to each of us. We will miss his great smile. Love you Fr Jim

Aileen & Dennis (Lou) Judd - November 08, 2019 at 01:12 PM

MW

“ Jim was my teacher and mentor at St Mary's in Baltimore nearly 45 years ago, and then remained so for the rest of his life. He would be genuinely amused by my weird ideas and tolerant of the many mistakes of my intellect which he would help me to correct with his gentle questions that would be a quiet guide to the truth. Like almost everyone who knew him, I'm way better for that.

Mike Wilson - November 07, 2019 at 11:10 PM

SB

“ Jim Lothamer and I were among the five boys entering the new high school seminary at St. Charles in Columbus, Ohio. The year was 1956.

We boarders, as we were called, were very close. We went to bed at 10:00 p.m., got up at 6:15, and, without saying a word were in Church by 7:00, ate breakfast by 7:45, and began classes (with the day students) by 8:30. We had a long study hall after dinner.

We did almost everything together.

It turned out that ours was a pretty gifted group. Jim (the other Jim) Litwaitis was the president of our senior class and had the highest senior class point average. Jim Lothamer was second or third.

There were about 60 students in our graduating class. (The great majority of our class were "day students.") I really busted myself to get a tie for tenth.

We had two excellent athletes at the secondary level (not me), and two others (not me) who were just down a bit from this. In the last two years I remember, Jim Lothamer was the fastest boy in the entire 250 student school at the 100 yard dash.

Of the five of us who entered St. Charles together, all of us graduated, but Jim was the only one to reach ordination. He was the only one who gave his life completely to God. The five of us grew apart as the years went by, and I have often wondered why only one of us was a priest. I now believe it had nothing to do with our decisions. Jim Lothamer was God's decision.

Steve Bickham

Stephen Bickham - November 07, 2019 at 04:47 PM

MW

Wow, that was beautiful

Mike Wilson - November 07, 2019 at 11:05 PM

RM

“ *Ricardo Mendoza lit a candle in memory of Father Jim Lothamer*



Ricardo Mendoza - November 07, 2019 at 11:40 AM

RM

All the Mendoza's family is sending hugs, prayers of comfort to all the Lothamer's family in this difficult moment. Jim was a very special and important member of our family. We love Jim forever.

Ricardo Mendoza - November 07, 2019 at 11:47 AM

JH

“ *Our condolences to everyone in the Lothamer family. We loved Father Jim and enjoyed every opportunity for dinner and the occasional vacation with him. Jim was a teacher always. So blessed to have Father Jim in our lives.*

Jack and Paula Holloway

Jack and Paula Holloway - November 07, 2019 at 10:27 AM

HE

“ *1 file added to the album Memories*



Heslip - November 07, 2019 at 10:24 AM

MF

Blessings to All of Father Jim's Family and Friends, I was blessed to meet Fr. Jim almost 50 years ago. I was at St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore in the Fall of 1975. After great reflection and many prayers to Our Lord, I decided not to become a Priest. Yet, if I had been ordained - I would have Loved to have been a Priest like Fr. Jim! I have thought of him often and just recently I was hoping to get in touch with him after viewing the latest movie entitled, Trinity Triumph. It brought back wonderful memories of my semester there, way back then! I have always Loved Fr. Jim, and I will wait patiently to see him again in Heaven of Heaven (St. Augustine). God Bless All of Fr. Jim's Loved ones who were Blessed to have known him all their lives. In Jesus' Name, We Pray, Mark

Mark Fitzpatrick - February 09, 2024 at 08:57 AM

TD

“ *Father Jim was a celebrant of Wednesday evening Masses at St. Athanasius Chapel in Baltimore. He gave thoughtful homilies emphasizing the mercy of the Lord. It was a blessing to have him celebrate Mass at our Parish.*

Teresa Dennis

Teresa Dennis - November 06, 2019 at 09:59 PM

MR

“ *sending prayers to help you navigate through this most sad time. May God shine His light on you and send the help you need*

The Cronmiller Family

Marycatherine Cronmiller Rodgers - November 05, 2019 at 04:54 PM

CB

“ We were so sorry to hear of Father Lothamer's passing. He was the Celebrant for Dominic's First Communion. Blessings and condolences to the entire Lothamer Family. Fondly, the Blatnik Family

Cathy Blatnik - November 05, 2019 at 11:27 AM

LR

“ Lothamer Tax Resolution purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of Father Jim Lothamer.



Lothamer Tax Resolution - November 04, 2019 at 12:57 PM

AB

“ A beautiful trip to Italy will never be forgotten. The planning, the care, the people on that trip always brings a smile. Fr. Jim was an angel on earth. A brother of sorts to me. He taught me a greater understanding of love and God's love. He will be greatly missed but always remembered.

Ann Brazeau - November 04, 2019 at 12:11 PM

PB

“ Dear Lothamer Family,

I'm sending prayers and sympathy for the passing of your brother. Simon, I'm sending an extra hug to you and your family.

Pauline

Pauline Borgman - November 03, 2019 at 01:55 PM

JM

“ I was fortunate to have enjoyed several lunches with Jim over the last few years after many years of separation since our seminary and ordination days. I much appreciated his intellect, deep spirituality, and eagerness for meaningful conversation. I'm sad that Jim is gone and that we weren't afforded more opportunities over the years. My deepest sympathies to Jim's family. He will be missed.

*John Mills
Bay City, Michigan*

John Mills - November 03, 2019 at 12:11 PM

PW

“ I am happy to have had the privilege of getting to know Fr. Jim through Amy and Jesse. He was at their home for many special occasions and was a wonderful conversationalist. My grandson Josh was able to travel to Germany and France this past June with Jim and Josh's father, Jesse. I know it will be a special treasured memory for Josh. I will keep his memory as a thoughtful intelligent man who touched many lives. Prayers to all the Lothamer Family.
Paula Weatherwax

Paula Weatherwax - November 03, 2019 at 11:53 AM

KL

“ We had the pleasure of meeting Fr. Jim on a few occasions while socializing with Joe and Linda. We had a nice long chat with him at Jimmy's Pub a few years ago and found him to be a bright, thoughtful and interesting man. He was a very good listener which is a rare trait. He will surely be missed by many.

Kathy and Jim Lammers - November 03, 2019 at 11:30 AM

JL

“ Although I never had the opportunity to meet Fr. Jim, I was able to access his genealogical material several years ago while at the Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne. My paternal grandfather's mother was a Lothamer, and the material Fr. Jim compiled helped me learn more about the ancestry of the Lothamer Family and their settlement in Indiana. Prayers to all the family and friends in this time of loss.

Justin Lopshire - November 02, 2019 at 05:53 PM

SH

“ May I be the first to say my brother, Fr. Jim thought us all how to live graciously with faith and friendships. He died the same way with arms stretched out to embrace all who visited him. I will miss him for the rest of my life but also know he is close by.

sharon lothamer harrington - November 02, 2019 at 02:11 PM

MR

Fr Jim was placed in our lives for a very special purpose. He left an imprint in our hearts with many memorable experiences and beautiful memories in our lives. He broadened our horizons and visions of the world through our travels, teachings and his spiritual guidance. Fr Jim lovingly settled in our hearts and then he quietly moved on, as if his mission in our lives was accomplished. Goodness and blessings have visited us since we met Fr Jim. His physical absence will be a void in our lives but he is a source of grace in our hearts.

Our heartfelt condolences and wishes of God's peace to Fr Jim's family.

Lovingly missed..... Manu and Teri.

Manu Roache - November 02, 2019 at 09:30 PM

DK

Such a kind and beautiful person, officiated my wife's healing service. Job well done my faithful servant.

Doug Kelley - November 03, 2019 at 12:29 PM

CO

*I'm so sorry for your loss Simon and Gayle. You will all be in our thoughts.
Cindy Older*

Cindy L Older - November 04, 2019 at 02:08 PM

SS

I had the privilege of being with Jim for the last 10 days of our lives together. He had the utmost appreciation for those who work the soil. He supported learning and being open to all cultures. Our European trips were beyond description - he spoke many languages & knew the history of where we visited. I will miss his warm smiling face coming through my door in the late afternoon on Christmas Day, his traditional winter visit north. I love you Jim. Thank you for showing us how to live and die. Susanne

susanne colligan, sister - November 05, 2019 at 03:08 PM

CV

Suzanne, I'm so sorry. I know how much Jim meant to you and your family. You have been a strong support for him in his last days. My Jim knew him and said he was a good teacher. He respected him. May he Rest In Peace.

catherine Valovick - November 05, 2019 at 04:08 PM

SL

Dear Lothamer Family,

Jim was with us Lothammers from Bad Wimpfen, Germany, for many decades. He has turned from a relative in America to a close friend very quickly. He was outstanding. A bright man, a man of character, academic and at the same time very down to earth. He could have been successful in many professions. We feel blessed that Jim did the baptisms of our three children.

I remember one visit before Karl-Ludwig and I had children. Maybe this was in 2002 or 2003. He came over to Southern Germany with 4 teenagers!!! 3 boys and 1 girl, being 14, 15 and 16 years old. Imagine! He wanted them to see Europe. So they spent some days at the Lake of Constance, where I was living at that time. We were enjoying the afternoon sun at the lakeside and the 16-year-old was delighted to have a legal beer. What a pity Karl-Ludwig, my later husband, was not able to be there. At that time he had to work in the US.

We were very happy to host him several times during the years, when he visited Germany. He was a kind guest and we loved the inspiring talks we had with him. At one evening we showed him some family photos of the last months to put colour in our talk about family news. One photo showed me and the children at Christmas Eve. We were sitting on the floor in a whole bunch of ruffled wrapping papers next to the feastfully illuminated Christmas tree. Jim smiled and said he felt reminded at his own childhood. He was a great man. We miss him.

*Susanne Lang-Lothhammer
Karl-Ludwig Lothhammer, Livia, Theresa & Leo
Weinstadt, Germany*

Susanne Lang-Lothhammer - November 08, 2019 at 02:03 PM