



## Fr Herbert Skurski

BIRTH	21 Feb 1917 Glen Lyon, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, USA
DEATH	16 Jan 1996 (aged 78) Shamokin, Northumberland County, Pennsylvania, USA
BURIAL	Saint Michaels Cemetery Glen Lyon, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, USA
MEMORIAL ID	21457090 · View Source

Fr. Herbert, son of Joseph and Barbara (Slawinska) Skurski, was born on February 21, 1917 in Glen Lyon, PA. His faith journey of faith began on the day of his baptism at St. Michael Church, his home parish. He was inspired to enter the Conventual Franciscan Novitiate of St. Joseph Cupertino in Ellicott City, MD where he made his first profession of vows on September 19, 1937. From 1938 he was engaged in philosophical and theological studies at St. Hyacinth Seminary, Granby, MA until his ordination to the priesthood on May 1, 1944. Fr. Herbert served as associate pastor for St. Michael Church, Bridgeport, CT; St. Casimir Church, Baltimore, MD; Corpus Christi Church, Chambersburg, PA; St. Stanislaus Kostka Church, Baltimore, MD; Queen of the Most Holy Rosary, Buffalo, NY; St. Theresa Church, Rochester, NY; Holy Trinity Church, Montreal, Canada; St. Stanislaus B.M. Church Chicopee, MA; St. Hedwig Church, New Bedford, MA; and St. Stephen Church, Shamokin, PA. Fr. Herbert's first pastorage came in 1972 when he was assigned to St. Mary Church, Sydney, Nova Scotia, Canada where he served diligently for seven years. He was then asked to assume responsibility as guardian and pastor of St. Joseph Friary and Church, Peabody, MA. He later served as pastor for St. Mary's Nativity Church, West Leyden, NY; St. Mary Church, Constableville, NY; and St. Louis Church, Portland, ME. His last assignment was as parochial vicar and eventually administrator of St. Joseph Church, Mount Carmel, PA where he celebrated his Golden Jubilee of priesthood in 1994.

In 1995, Fr. Herbert was assigned to St. Hyacinth Friary, Granby, MA. He intended to be available to serve as a substitute for our Friars in the parochial ministry whenever and wherever a need would arise. Unfortunately, shortly after arriving at St. Hyacinth, Fr. Herbert became ill. It was determined that the strength of his heart was decreasing. He spent his last months at Mother Cabrini Friary, Shamokin, PA where he remained under the care of his trusted doctor and was in closer proximity to his family and friends. On January 16, 1996, Fr. Herbert collapsed at the friary and was admitted to the Shamokin Area Community Hospital where he died. Fr. Herbert was a man of dedication and service. While he took his obligations seriously, especially his role as pastor, he also called others to that same kind of responsibility in their lives. However, his sense of duty was always tempered by his awareness of the mercy and love of God in his life and in the lives of those whom he served. Fr. Herbert always strove to build a sense of community. He took a special interest in the young people of each parish, making every effort to establish sports teams or scouting programs, realizing such activities were healthy and important to the youth of the day. He worked hard to develop in young people a sense of pride, commitment, and respect for all. Fr. Herbert viewed his vow of obedience as central to his life and ministry. Whenever Fr. Herbert received a new assignment, he accepted it as God's will. His ministry and personal concern for all were

inspired by his spirit of dedicated service. Notes written by past parishioners of Fr. Herbert, at the time of his death, testified that he was viewed as a "true and faithful servant." Truly, there is no greater compliment that can be offered to a Friar and a Priest. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated for Fr. Herbert at Mother Cabrini Church, Shamokin, PA on January 20, 1996. He was buried at a later date in his family plot at St. Michael Cemetery, Glen Lyon, PA.

**Gravesite Details** Conventual Franciscan priest

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