



## Brother Daniel C. Rakow, M.S.C.

June 8, 1945 - July 5, 2014

Brother Daniel C. Rakow, M.S.C., 69, a member of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, entered into his heavenly reward on Saturday, July 5, 2014 at Asbury Gardens Supportive Living. Brother Dan was born June 8, 1945 in Elgin, Illinois to Arnold and Helen (Kohler) Rakow. He graduated from St. Catherine Parochial School, Dundee, IL, in 1959. In the fall of that year, Brother Dan entered Sacred Heart Mission Seminary, Geneva, IL, where he completed his secondary education. In 1963, he entered the novitiate of the order in Geneva, making first profession of vows in 1965. He was assigned as auto mechanic and general maintenance at the Geneva facility and, at the same time, was a member of the Geneva volunteer fire department and rescue squad. In 1971, he professed his perpetual vows and was transferred to the MSC community at Center Valley, PA, continuing in similar work.

In 1974, Brother Dan was assigned to the missions of the order in Papua New Guinea, where he served for 34 years until returning in 2007. He helped to establish and run St. Joseph Training Center which started at Lemakot and later relocated to Fissoa in the Diocese of Kavieng on the island of New Ireland. His duties included business manager at the mission station at Lemakot, vocational school general manager, and medical orderly at the school. He entered into Asbury Gardens in 2011 and remained there until his death.

Survivors include his two sisters, Romaine Culp and Diann Conard and their children and grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a sister in infancy; his brothers-in-law, Dave Culp and Jim Conard; and his niece, Susan.

Visitation will be held Wednesday, July 9, 2014 from 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM, with the Office of the Dead at 7:30 PM, at St. Therese Church, 271 N. Farnsworth Ave, Aurora, IL 60505. Visitation will also be held Thursday, July 10, 2014 from 9:00 AM – 10:00 AM prior to the funeral Mass at St. Therese Church. A concelebrated Mass of Christian Burial will be at 10:00 AM with Fr. Raymond Diesbourg, M.S.C. as Celebrant. Interment will follow at Mt. Olivet Cemetery. A reception will be held after the burial. Funeral arrangements are being handled by THE DALEIDEN MORTUARY, 220 N. Lake St., Aurora, IL 60506. 630-631-5500. Please visit our interactive website at [www.daleidenmortuary.com](http://www.daleidenmortuary.com) to leave condolences for Brother Daniel's family or sign the guest book.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in Brother Daniel's name may be made to Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, 305 S. Lake St., Aurora, IL 60506.

# Cemetery Details

## Mt. Olivet Cemetery

278 Ashland Avenue  
Aurora, IL 60505

# Previous Events

## In State

JUL **9.** 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

St. Therese Church  
271 North Farnsworth Avenue  
Aurora, IL 60505  
1-630-898-5422

## In State

JUL **10.** 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (CT)

St. Therese Church  
271 North Farnsworth Avenue  
Aurora, IL 60505  
1-630-898-5422

## Funeral Mass

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JUL **10**. 10:00 AM (CT)

St. Therese Church  
271 North Farnsworth Avenue  
Aurora, IL 60505  
1-630-898-5422

# Tribute Wall

GC

“ My name is Gilbert Caron and I am from Québec City. I have just learned of the passing of Dan. I worked with him as we both were supervisors at an MSC summer camp in Cape Vincent in July of 1973. We became friends and Dan invited me to Center Valley Pa. in August of that year. Then, with some friends of his, we travelled throughout the United States for about a month. In the Spring of 1974, he got a bit of French Québec culture as he and others visited me up her in Québec City.  
Dan was a generous person and a great guy. I a sure that those close to him will miss him dearly.

*Gilbert Caron  
Québec City*

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**Gilbert Caron** - December 19, 2014 at 12:44 PM

JP

“ My name is Jeannie Rumble Prombo and I remember when the twins were born as their big sister Romayne was and is one of my treasured friends. They were so cute !! Dan's parents were the best and I spent many happy days in the Rakow home. I knew Dan was a Brother and worked tirelessly for the Lord all his life. Rest in peace dear Dan in the arms of your Heavenly Father !

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**Jeanne Prombo** - July 08, 2014 at 12:23 PM

DF

“ My name is Drew Frasz and I lived next door to the Geneva Sacred Heart Seminary ( which is now the Kane County Government Center) .In the late 60's my friends John Porter, Ken Fisher and I were all 12-14 years old and spent a lot of time hanging around Dan and some of the other brothers as ther took care of the buildings and grounds. Dan would have been 25 or so (old) then. He let us have the run of the place, ride on the tractors and in the 2 army surplus jeeps they had. He taught me how to cut down a tree with a chain saw. One year he adopted a young raccoon and named it Bandit and it would follow him around as he did his chores. He was very patient and generous with us and let us ride mini bikes around the grounds and would take a few rides himself. Many of the brothers were volunteer firemen and would all go racing to the fire station when there was a alarm. They were all good guys and good role models for us . Dan spent his whole life helping others and the community.

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**Drew Frasz** - July 07, 2014 at 03:36 PM

MB

*I remember Br. Dan fondly from my time working at the MSC in Aurora. He always had a smile, even when he wasn't feeling well. I loved hearing his stories from PNG and when he went fishing. I pray God wraps His arms around Br. Dan's family and friends*

*Mary Bochnovic*

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**Mary Bochnovic** - July 09, 2014 at 01:37 PM

AL

*Drew: My name is Art Lynch. Your note jarred my memory when you mentioned Bro. Dan's adopted raccoon, "Bandit". At around the time period you indicated, I, too, was an MSC Brother, and spent part of my novitiate years in Geneva in the same group as Dan. He and I were just about the same age, though at different levels as novices. I remember helping Bro. Dan with that huge front lawn. Even though we had the "gang mower", we sometimes had to mow that area with just gas-powered hand mowers. On one occasion, I was riding with him in one of those surplus jeeps. He drove kinda close to the side of that creek you may recall. The jeep veered along the creek and then leaned sharply toward the water. Although the jeep managed to stay upright, I lost my hold, fell out and into the creek bed. I left the MSC just before Dan was sent to the New Guinea missions. Would you believe he actually taught me to drive so I could get my license when I was 21? Great teacher, too! It's been many years, now. I'm a dad and grandpa of two great kids, with another on the way this year. My wife and I are both retired and living in East Hampton, NY on Long Island. We do plan to join the "mobs" of retirees in Florida in a year or so. Something inside me tells me Bro. Dan is still an inspiration and now is in an even better position to intercede with the Lord on my behalf. I am grateful to have known him at a pivotal time in my life. I will pray for him, but more importantly, I know I can trust he's got an eye on me, too. Thanks for the memories!*

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**Arthur Lynch** - July 11, 2014 at 01:48 AM

DF

*Art good to hear from you. In talking to people at the wake including Ken Wiesbrook, a former student we remembered Gene Thomas, Ron Weigand, a stocky guy Rick? All on the fire department and working the grounds at the campus. You may remember my dad Ed Frasz was a dentist and took care of some of the Brothers. I was elected to the Kane County Board in 2008 so I spend a lot of time at the site still and am on the Committiee that oversees the buildings and grounds so the old Sacred Heart days are always on my mind. We meet in the former chappel and the dorm rooms are all offices etc.*

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**drew frasz** - July 14, 2014 at 03:56 PM

AL

*Drew: Thank you so much for your note. Yes, I remember the "Motherhouse" so well. (There is just no way I could ever forget my time with the MSC.) You may recall the Brothers' Novitiate under Fr. Bill Gies (RIP), located in the "old house" across from the main building. There was a room in that building which had apparently been a food prep area of the old "Pope Estate". Just about every morning, after breakfast, we novices would go in there and, while reciting the rosary and listening to the reading of an inspirational book, During that time, we would engage in what we simply referred to as "peeling", i.e., we would process the vegetables that the sisters required for cooking the meals for the students and the "community". The large room adjacent to the kitchen was the students refectory. It also had a stage and was used as an assembly room where we were treated to plays, etc., performed by the students. It was also where we enjoyed watching the occasional motion pictures that were shown there. I'm sure you'd learn much more about those times from the priests and brothers at the Provincial house in Aurora. Those days are, even now, a voyage of pure nostalgia for me. What a wonderful and pleasant surprise to see your note. Thank you so much.*

**Art Lynch** - August 06, 2014 at 02:37 AM

DF

*Wow, first off, I was a seminarian at Geneva the year it closed, and that moment of reflection held change for my life. Reading of Brother Dan saddened me as he was quite an inspiration to me in so many ways! There were 5 of us in the freshman class that was present at time of closure, and Brother Dan and Brother Ron inspired my career change to law enforcement and fire fighter! I would join them and went to the firehouse many times and became interested in fire and emergency management as well! I remember the Plectron radios and several calls during mass or prayer service. They were my role models, as were several of the priests. If Geneva would have stayed open, I may have made a different decision, but I know God's plans are Supreme! I had several conversations with other Priests from Geneva over the years, but these guys were the youth of the organization. I just read of damage to the Grotto, and was disheartened, but rejuvenated when I read of Bandit who was housed in the lower shed, and we would feed him daily and have to feed with an egg. Bandit would also swim in the pool with us when the pool was open! I have many good memories of those days... and have thought of them often!*

**David Franke** - September 30, 2018 at 07:37 PM