



Fr. Kenneth Theisen, OSB

November 1, 1941 - August 8, 2025

Rev. Kenneth Theisen, O.S.B., a monk of Marmion Abbey, died on August 8, 2025, at St.

Patrick's Residence in Naperville, Il. Fr. Kenneth was born on November 1, 1941. Son of

Harry and Marie (Bohr) Theisen, he was the youngest of nine siblings, seven brothers

and two sisters. He attended Saint Theresa grade school in Aurora and graduated from

Marmion Military Academy in 1959. He attended one year of St. John Vianney Seminary in Elkhorn, Nebraska and entered Marmion Abbey in July of 1960.

After his

novitiate year, he was a student at St. Procopius College, graduating in 1964.

He

professed solemn vows August 15, 1964. He spent two years studying theology at St.

Procopius Major Seminary. He took a year's leave of absence, serving as an instructor at

Marian Central Catholic High School in Woodstock, Illinois, 1966-67. In 1968 he

received a dispensation from his religious vows as a Benedictine monk. For the next ten

years he worked in Estes Park, Colorado, overseeing a motel and working

with his brother Richard in his roofing business. After discernment, he decided to apply once again for entrance to Marmion Abbey. He was invested as a novice in August of 1980. From 1981-1984, he did his theological studies at Saint Meinrad School of Theology in Indiana. He professed solemn vows on August 6, 1984, and was ordained to the priesthood on December 27, 1984. Father Kenneth then entered a period of holding multiple roles at Marmion Abbey and Marmion Academy. He began teaching assignments in the Mathematics Department of the Academy. For three decades, he established himself as a master teacher and tutor in Algebra and Advanced Math. He also served for several years as golf coach and as the Dean of Men for the Resident Students. At the Abbey, Fr. Kenneth served as Procurator and Prefect of the House, Kitchen Master and Treasurer. He followed in the footsteps of his uncle, Rev. Luke Bohr, OSB, serving as Prior of the monastery for ten years, and as keeper of Mass Intentions. Many faithful in the parishes of the area benefited from the sacramental help provided by Fr. Kenneth in his priestly duties, as well as in his role as a spiritual director. Fr. Kenneth was an ardent Chicago Cubs fan, a person who never encountered a jigsaw puzzle he could not finish. He was a loving family member to his numerous relatives,

near and far.

In his last years, Father Kenneth experienced several debilitating physical ailments,

leading to a lack of mobility and confinement, first to the infirmary at the Abbey, and in

more recent years, to St. Patrick's Residence in Naperville, where he was deeply loved.

He maintained a keen mind, a firm faith, and sense of humor through it all.

Father Kenneth was preceded in death by his parents, two sisters (Doris and Sister

Merina, SSSF) and five of his brothers (Robert, Harry, Gerald, Ray and James). He is

survived by his brother Richard, many nieces and nephews, and his brother monks.

The body of Father Kenneth will be received at Marmion Abbey's St.

Augustine of

Canterbury Church at 4:00 pm on Friday, August 15. Visitation will follow until 8:00

pm, with a Vigil Service at 7:00 pm. A Mass of Christian Burial will take place at

Marmion Abbey on Saturday, August 16, at 10:30 am. Visitation will continue the hour

before the start of the liturgy. Burial will follow at Marmion Abbey Cemetery.

Funeral arrangements were entrusted to The Daleiden Mortuary, 220 N. Lake St., Aurora, IL. 60506.

Please remember to sign the virtual guest book and leave condolences for Fr. Kenneth's family.

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 15. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Marmion Abbey Church
850 Butterfield Rd
Aurora, IL 60502

Visitation

AUG 16. 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM (CT)

Marmion Abbey Church
850 Butterfield Rd
Aurora, IL 60502

Funeral Mass

AUG 16. 10:30 AM (CT)

Marmion Abbey Church
850 Butterfield Rd
Aurora, IL 60502

Interment

AUG 16. 11:30 AM (CT)

Marmion Abbey Cemetery
850 Butterfield Rd.
Aurora, IL 60502

Tribute Wall

PM

“ Lots of prayers and love to the Theisen family. What a beautiful legacy of life and service to others! I did not know Father Ken but knew of him through Marmion and his brothers Bob, Jim and Jerry and nephew Scott thru Malcor Roofing. Different personalities for sure but all kind, hardworking men. Great memories are there for me to keep. Rest in peace Fr. Ken 🙏🙏🙏

Patricia Kane Moore - August 14, 2025 at 03:17 PM

MA

“ Have many happy memories of trips to Estes Park and time spent with you there. Mary (Bohr) Arch

Mary (Bohr) Arch - August 14, 2025 at 12:25 PM

TF

“ The Tansey Family purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Fr. Kenneth Theisen, OSB.



The Tansey Family - August 13, 2025 at 01:41 PM

TF

“ The Tansey Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Fr. Kenneth Theisen, OSB.

The Tansey Family - August 13, 2025 at 01:41 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Fr. Kenneth Theisen, OSB.*



August 12, 2025 at 05:32 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Fr. Kenneth Theisen, OSB.

August 12, 2025 at 05:32 AM



“ *God bless you.*

Thomas - August 11, 2025 at 10:50 PM



“ *Jeff Weseman lit a candle in memory of Fr. Kenneth Theisen, OSB*



jeff weseman - August 11, 2025 at 06:33 AM

JR

“ I knew Father Ken's parents. His sister Doris was my sister Myrrha's best friend. Also we were his brother Ray's good friends for many years. We would reminisce with Ken at the many functions at Marmion through the years.. Will miss him .
God bless him and may he rest in peace now.

Janis and Jim Ruddy

JANIS RUDDY - August 10, 2025 at 04:32 PM

RB

Father Kenneth was a very kind and good Priest! It seems that every time I was talking with him I remember. Years ago we shared our stories about our By Pass surgery. When he went to St Patrick a couple years ago I left with Covid which was very active there, This time I left with a stronger Catholic Faith we said the Rosary with him and I felt a strong connection with the Lord, God Bless Father Kenneth we will miss him but I am sure he is at Rest. His pain is gone and he is with Our Lord. RIP Father. Robert Bohr

Robert Bohr - August 11, 2025 at 06:16 AM