



George B. Van Antwerp

November 8, 1927 - February 14, 2019

George Bernard Van Antwerp, Sr., passed away in Royal Oak, MI on February 14, 2019 at the age of 91.

He is survived by Mary Louise (Beale) Van Antwerp, his beloved wife of 48 years, and their three children: George (Kerri) Van Antwerp, Karon (Andy) Latham, and Michael (Ami) Van Antwerp. He was a loving grandfather "Opa" to eight grandchildren: Keeley, Britt, Alex, Elise, Katherine, Sawyer, Macie, and Harper and is survived by three of his ten siblings: Hon. Daniel (Cecelia) Van Antwerp, Dacia (Patrick) Pollard, and Agnes Van Antwerp. He is preceded in death by his parents: Eugene Ignatius and Mary Frances (McDevitt) Van Antwerp and seven siblings: Sr. Mary Dolores Van Antwerp, R.S.C.J., Pauline Annetta "Polly" Denton, Frances Loretta Jaeger, Eugene Ignatius "Gene" Van Antwerp Jr., Francis Joseph "Joe" Van Antwerp, Anthony "Gore" Van Antwerp, and Joan Cecilia Shannon.

George was born in Detroit, Michigan. He attended Gesu Catholic School where he served as an altar boy, captain of the safety patrol, and achieved the rank of Eagle Scout. He attended Catholic Central High School in Detroit (class of 1945) and subsequently attended Sacred Heart Seminary and St. John Provincial Seminary. He was ordained in 1953 and served as a Roman Catholic diocesan priest for seventeen years, working at St. Mary of Good Counsel (Adrian), St. Francis Xavier (Ecorse), Most Holy Trinity (Detroit), St.

Joseph (Erie), and St. Boniface (Detroit). As a priest, he also taught religion at Cardinal Mooney High School, worked with the Cursillo movement, worked with the migrant workers in Lenawee and Monroe counties, and started a credit union, catechetical program, and youth program in San Rafael de Yuma, Dominican Republic. He was then excited to be chosen by John Cardinal Dearden to be the first head of the initial missionary effort of the Archdiocese of Detroit to Recife, Brazil, where he worked with Archbishop Dom Helder Camara and the Immaculate Heart of Mary (IHM) sisters to build and grow a parish community working in the favelas and with the leper community.

After leaving the priesthood, he fell in love and married Mary Louise Beale. He then took a position with the United States Peace Corps, and they moved to Natal, Brazil, where he was the Director for Northeast Brazil and was responsible for all the volunteers in that area. He returned to Detroit a few years later to serve the city he loved in leadership positions at Self-Help Addiction Rehab (SHAR), Mt. Carmel Mercy Hospital, Southwest Mental Health, Boniface Human Services, National Migrant Workers (with the Sisters of Mercy), and St. Vincent de Paul Society. In each of those roles and through other volunteer roles, he embraced every opportunity to help those in need, leaving behind a legacy of a lifetime of service. He served for numerous years on the boards of the Michigan League for Human Services and the Msgr. Clement H. Kern Foundation, with the latter being the only one he continued until he was recently hospitalized.

George was a family man who loved his wife, children, and grandchildren. He was intrigued by the Van Antwerp family history in the United States and often worked to connect the family. George enjoyed playing bridge and was active in several bridge groups, playing frequently with long-time friends, many of whom he'd known since his seminary days. He also enjoyed the game of chess and spent several years teaching the game to kids at George Crockett

Academy in Detroit. After he retired and between games of solitaire and bridge and volunteering, he wrote several books and helped his friends to publish books on different topics. George loved to tell stories and wanted to capture those for future generations. His books included The Ninth Child (books I-III), Zoon: Van Antwerp Family Saga, Cooking Rocks!, and The Final Four, which he wrote with his three surviving siblings - the "Final Four" of the eleven siblings for these past 12 years.

Visitation will take place Saturday 4-7 p.m. and Sunday 1-8 p.m. with a 4 p.m. vigil service at the Wm. Sullivan and Son Funeral Home, 705 W 11 Mile Road (4 blocks E of Woodward), Royal Oak, MI 48067. The funeral will be held Monday, in state 9:30 a.m. until the time of Mass 10 a.m., at Our Mother of Perpetual Help Catholic Church, 13500 Oak Park Blvd., Oak Park, MI 48237. All are invited to attend and celebrate George's life. In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to the Father Clement Kern Foundation, Richard Noelke, Treasurer, P.O. Box 532042, Livonia, MI 48153-2042, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul at <<http://svdpdet.org/donate/>>, or the Migrant Farm Workers Council. Condolences may be shared at www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com.

Cemetery Details

Holy Sepulchre Cemetery

25800 W. 10 Mile Road
10 Mile Road @ Beech Road
Southfield, MI 48033

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 16. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Wm. Sullivan and Son Funeral Directors-Royal Oak
705 W. Eleven Mile Road
Royal Oak, MI 48067
(248) 541-7000
royal@sullivanfh.com
<https://www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com/>

Visitation

FEB 17. 1:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Wm. Sullivan and Son Funeral Directors-Royal Oak
705 W. Eleven Mile Road
Royal Oak, MI 48067
(248) 541-7000
royal@sullivanfh.com
<https://www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com/>

Vigil Service

FEB 17. 4:00 PM (ET)

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705 W. Eleven Mile Road
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Funeral Mass

FEB 18. 10:00 AM (ET)

Our Mother of Perpetual Help ~ Oak Park
13500 Oak Park Boulevard
Oak Park, MI 48237

Tribute Wall

SE

“ We send our deepest sympathy and offer the Van Antwerp family love, light and prayer during this time in need. And to Mrs. Van Antwerp we wish that you find courage, peace, and strength to face the days ahead in the warm and loving memories that Mr. Van Antwerp left with you. From your former GCA family, the Embry family.



Sydney Embry - February 19, 2019 at 11:59 AM

JM

“ On behalf of the entire Shrine Catholic School Community, we wish peace and prayers for the entire Van Antwerp family. May Mr. Van Antwerp rest in peace.

James Mio - February 19, 2019 at 08:14 AM

JK

“ When we think of George we remember his smile! For Mary Lou, George, Karon, Michael and family we send our sympathy and are sure he is smiling in heaven.

Jane Komendera - February 17, 2019 at 08:43 PM

C(

“ To Mrs. Antwerp and family, my heart felt condolences go out to you all. From your former GCA family, Cortez & Clarice Rankins

Clarice Drumgoole (Rankins) - February 17, 2019 at 11:40 AM

JC

“ Dear Marylou: Our heartfelt condolences to you and your family. May God give you strength in the coming months as you all grieve . What a wonderful life he had.....we should be as lucky!

Jack & Joy Cullen - February 17, 2019 at 11:09 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of George B. Van Antwerp.



February 16, 2019 at 08:33 PM

MT

“ I first met George Van Antwerp through my former boss and life time friend Mrs. Van Antwerp (Mary Lou). From the first time I met him I was greeted with a smile and an inviting spirit. Which never changed over the 20 plus years I've known him. Always concerned with the need and well being of others. He had a giving and loving heart. He and Mrs. Van Antwerp became more like family. We enjoyed many occasions together from graduations to birthdays to weddings and even swapping recipes. It was such a blessing to have had a chance to encounter such an wonderful man with such an amazing spirit. He will be greatly missed by so many. He is now with our Lord and Saviour but the memories of George and of his warm smile will live on with his family and friends forever.
Love Margaret Thigpen

Margaret Thigpen - February 16, 2019 at 06:52 PM

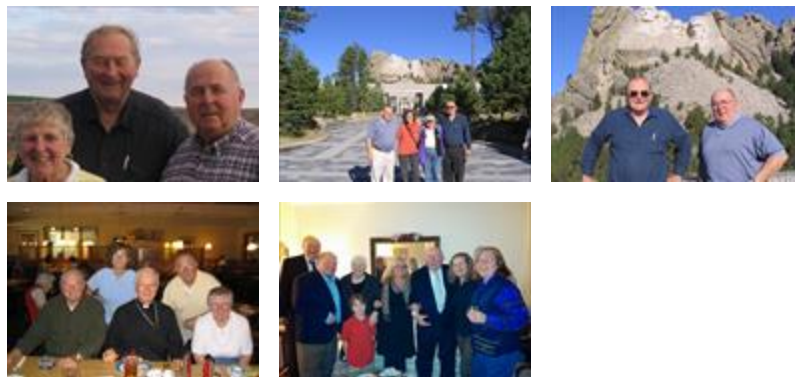
CP

“ *Uncle George was a wonderful Person, a wonderful uncle, with a wonderful family. It was always a joy to visit with him, his smiles and stories brought joy to us all. God Bless You and Rest in Peace Uncle George.*

Cathy Partalis - February 16, 2019 at 09:31 AM

CP

“ *15 files added to the album snapshots of George*



Cathy Partalis - February 16, 2019 at 08:55 AM



“ *Uncle George was always smiling and he always had a story. He was the finest example of a Christian as I've ever known. He had a heart of gold & gave everything of himself. I remember him smiling as he told me how he was going to get in trouble again, he had given a needy homeless man the winter coat off of his back, again. He often went through several coats annually. He loved his wife & children beyond measure. His garden was another one of his loves. He had wonderful raspberries that he would share with the whole neighborhood. I could carry on for hours, that must be the Van Antwerp genes in me. God Bless you Uncle George. Heaven has gained a Super Angel. I miss you already.*

Mary Moylan - February 15, 2019 at 09:54 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of George B. Van Antwerp.*



February 15, 2019 at 09:48 PM



“ *My father's very best friend. Families together for ever.*

Margarita Valdés-Villarreal - February 15, 2019 at 08:16 PM



“ *Great Uncle George was a sweet and caring man. I remember when I was younger and he would make us kids the most awesome jello eggs for Easter. May God Bless him and many prayers.
Love, The Bielats*

Bielat - February 15, 2019 at 04:58 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of George B. Van Antwerp.*



February 15, 2019 at 03:55 PM

GJ

“ George was a very valued board member of the Michigan League for Human Services, now the Michigan League for Public Policy, for many years. He will be missed for his compassion, hard work on behalf of the organization, and his kindness to all humanity. On behalf of the board and staff of the League, please know that we will hold his memory in our hearts.
Gilda Jacobs, CEO.

Gilda Jacobs - February 15, 2019 at 02:54 PM

GS

“ RIP uncle George. What a great man.

Gene Shannon - February 15, 2019 at 02:22 PM

NK

“ George is in the thoughts and prayers of the Our Lady of the Rosary parish family. We have great respect and love for the Van Antwerp family, going back to our founding pastor, Msgr. Francis VanAntwerp, 1889. Detroit has been blessed by George's presence here. May we all work to continue his legacy. Norbert Kidd

Norbert Kidd - February 15, 2019 at 11:38 AM

SP

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Steve Palackdharry - February 15, 2019 at 10:24 AM

SP

George was instrumental in the founding of Southwest Solutions in Detroit in 1970 and provided space at St. Boniface for the organization to open its doors and serve the most vulnerable members of the community. We at Southwest Solutions mourn George's passing and offer our deepest condolences to family and friends. His is an inspirational life truly well lived, and his positive impact on others and the community is immeasurable.

Steve Palackdharry - February 15, 2019 at 11:25 AM

LA

“*Uncle George was always smiling and made one feel as though he had all the time in the world for you. He was gentle, kind and loving. His laughter was infectious and smile contagious. His family (children and grandchildren) = a wonderful legacy demonstrating Uncle George's beautiful, kind soul and admirable skills and traits. With love, Laura and Drew Berger*

Laura - February 14, 2019 at 07:56 PM

MD

So I'm one of about 40 nieces and grand-nieces. Inevitably each time I'd see Uncle George, he greeted me with a big hug for "my favorite niece". Yeah, right!. And he loved, loved, loved to win at bridge. Just about a month ago we played and when I doubled his outrageous bid, with a little twinkle in his eye, he re-doubled. He may even have made an over-trick. And what a smirk! We'll miss George a lot, as will all those he's loved and teased and mentored and taught. Much love, Mary Do & Cy

Mary Do & Cy DeMeulemeester - February 14, 2019 at 10:10 PM

MJ

George has been my best friend for over 50 years. As my pastor and as my colleague he taught me many important things, actually much more than academic instruction. They were live. Central to this and primary...remember the little guy and gal who is almost invisible but so important to us all, the cleaning person, the migrant worker who picks the tomatoes, the nurse's aid, the teacher's aid, the person who washes the dishes and cleans the table A wonderful lesson! And living closely, I know how good George as good at forgiving. God bless you, Mike, Craig, Joanne, Clement, Hulani, Tau, and Emil

Michael Jorissen - February 15, 2019 at 11:07 AM

MR

Dear Marylou and Family The heavens are enjoying the smiles and quick wit of George and all the stories he shared with all of you .A good man who made a lot of difference in his life RIP.

Marie Riley - February 16, 2019 at 01:42 PM

KA

Uncle George made everyone feel welcomed. As a child spending time with he and aunt Mary Lou, George Mike and Karon was always an adventure. From riding the tractor to their wonderful picnics and holidays. Often I would call out Uncle George 's name upon seeing him and he would answer "one of my favorite nieces" as he explained we all were his favorite nieces. Along with our parents he and aunt Mary Lou showed us the path to helping others and trying to make the world a kind and gentle place.

karen van antwerp - February 17, 2019 at 10:10 AM

JM

In every sense of the word, George VanAntwerp was a giant of a man. I knew him in seminary and in priesthood, and long after. I looked forward each year to his informative Christmas message.He assisted me in the publication of my book. I celebrate his many years of life with Mary Lou and the family.

*Much love and respect.
Rev. James L. Meyer ,MA, JD
Archdiocese of Detroit - Senior Priest*

James L. Meyer - February 18, 2019 at 04:59 PM