



Fr. Melvin D. Hemann

October 15, 1928 - December 14, 2021

CEDAR FALLS-Fr. Melvin D. Hemann, 93, of Palm Coast, FL, died Tuesday, December 14, 2021 at the Stuart F. Meyer Hospice House in Palm Coast. He was born October 15, 1928, in Stacyville, IA, the son of Bernard J. and Olive S. Halbach Hemann. He graduated from Visitation High School in Stacyville in 1946, Loras College in 1955, and Mt. St. Bernard Seminary in 1959, both in Dubuque. He was ordained into the priesthood January 31, 1959 at St. Raphael Cathedral in Dubuque. He served as Associate Pastor at parishes in Protivin, Holy Cross, Schley, Cedar Rapids, New Haven, Decorah, Ames, Mason City, Charles City and Roseville, Pastor in Chelsea, Preston, Sabula, Green Island, Rickardsville, Sherrill, and Balltown. He also served as Dean of the Bellevue Deanery, Executive Secretary of the Balltown-Sherrill Consolidated School and Director of the Archdiocesan Family Life Office, retiring July 20, 1998. He was a leader and presenter on Marriage and Family Life Programs locally, nationally, and internationally for over 50 years. He was a Charter Member, Officer and Leader of the National Association of Priest Pilots.

Survived by his three sisters, Sister Camilla Hemann OSF of Dubuque, Kathleen Full of Iowa City, and Lucille Mueller of Ashville, NC; two brothers, James (Gladys) Hemann of Eden Prairie, MN and Mathew (Karmen) Hemann of Stacyville; and many nieces, nephews, and friends. Preceded in death by two brothers, Rev. Everett Hemann and Msgr. John Hemann; two brothers in law, Clemens Full and Helmut "Tom" Mueller; and niece, Janis Hemann.

Memorial Mass 11:00 a.m. Thursday, January 13, 2022 at St. Patrick Catholic Church in Cedar Falls. Online condolences may be left at: www.richardsonfuneralservice.com. Memorial contributions may be directed to: St. Stephen the Witness Catholic Student Center in Cedar Falls, St. Thomas Aquinas Student Center, Ames, or the Hemann Scholarship Fund, Loras College, Dubuque.

Previous Events

Memorial Mass

JAN 13. 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Patrick Catholic Church
705 Main Street
Cedar Falls, IA 50613

Tribute Wall

AA

“ I had the distinct pleasure of flying with Fr Mel in 2019. In fact he gave me my solo endorsement as a student pilot. I remember calling him in around Jan 2021 and checking up on him, we had a lovely conversation. However after a few months my calls went unanswered so I figured the worst. Now it has been confirmed. Fr. Mel I wish you were still alive so that I could thank you one more time for all that you have taught me in aviation, both inside and outside of the cockpit. You were one of the best instructors I ever had. I will make sure to cherish my logbook with your signature in it. Rest Well. Signed Andrew Ainsworth

Andrew Ainsworth - May 08, 2022 at 12:48 AM

RF

“ Mel and I flew together for a number of years when he was my check pilot and he taught my wife the rudiments of flying our home built airplane in a pinch hitter course. I was impressed with his understanding of his subject and his students. I can see why he was such a success at Family Life. Occasionally it is one's privilege to enjoy the company someone with the spiritual depth that Fr. Mel possessed and his Sunday Homilies were as well prepared as his flight lessons. Both require an inspired teacher. He walked the path of life fulfilling Christ's Great Commission.

Dr. Robert Federhofer and Helen Sadler 12 January 2022

Robert Federhofer - January 12, 2022 at 11:06 AM

TS

“ I had the distinct pleasure of getting to know Fr. Mel at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Palm Coast, Fl. We usually sat in the same area at 7AM daily Mass and always had pleasant conversations. He became a sounding board for me as I worked to improve my lector skills. He was also a great listener whenever I would ask him about something of a spiritual nature. Occasionally, we would grab a breakfast together and a few times, he came to my home for a delicious meal prepared by my wife. One time, a priest friend was visiting him from California in conjunction with a priest/pilot convention. We hosted the the 2 of them at our house for a dinner which was such a delight. I lost track of him at the outbreak of COVID 19 in early 2020. We chatted a few times by phone but, sadly, I could not see him during his final months on earth. RIP, Fr. Mel.

Tom Smith - January 09, 2022 at 11:56 AM

GN

“ I also worked for Fr. Mel in the Family Life Office. He was a wonderful person—so kind and compassionate. Mel worked some other programs such as Retrouville, a program,that helped couples whose marriages were in trouble. He helped save many couples over the years. He also worked with Beginning Experience and a marriage preparation program for couples entering a second marriage. His understanding of the pain these individuals experienced was phenomenal. I was working for Fr. Mel at the time he was building his airplane. That as a very interesting time! I haven't seen Mel recently but he as never been far from my thoughts. I'm sure he is soaring through the blue skies of Heaven! Bless you Fr. Mel!!

Ginny Neuwohner - January 08, 2022 at 07:07 PM

AK

“ I had the pleasure of working with Fr. Mel in the Family Life Office at the Archdiocese of Dubuque in the early 90's (and Fr. Ev!). He was such a warm, compassionate man and I will forever think of him as a dear, dear friend. I helped with and mailed out the Priest Pilot's newsletters and had the joy of watching him build his airplane over the years. The sparkle in his eye when he talked about flying was a treat to see! We kept in touch over the years, especially at Christmas. He will be missed. May he rest in peace in the loving arms of our Father as he's reunited in heaven with his brothers and parents. My deepest sympathy to all of you.
Angie Krall

Angie Krall - January 05, 2022 at 04:30 PM

WB

“ I got to know Fr. Mel when he flew for Schumacher Elevator. I enjoyed visiting with him on the phone as we made travel arrangements. I will always have fond memories. My deepest sympathies to your family. Wanda Burkholder

Wanda Burkholder - January 02, 2022 at 09:23 PM

LN

“ We worked for several years with Father Mel in the Engaged Encounter program. We spent around 10 or 11 weekends with him ministering to engaged couples as they prepared for marriage. We all particularly enjoyed the Saturday night meal and the ambiance created at the American Martyrs Retreat house. He particularly enjoyed one of the engaged encounter talks we gave on Saturday night after dinner. I can still remember his stage whisper, "did he say that?"(every time). Father Mel was brilliant at demonstrating why grace is more important than being right. His sense of humor and willingness to "go there" with people were legendary. We will love him forever.



Deepest Sympathy to his family

Tom and Linnea Nicol

Linnea Nicol - January 02, 2022 at 09:25 AM

FS

“ *Father Mel's Family,*
My sincere sympathy to all of you at this time of Mel's death. Unfortunately a schedule conflict will prevent my participation in the Memorial Mass. Mel and I became better acquainted friends when he retired to Cedar Falls and would "fill in" for me at the parish and got me interested in, at least, going for a ride in his plane and joining as an associate member of the Priests Pilots Association. It was always good conversation and I benefitted from his "pastoral" sense and wisdom as I pastored St. Patrick's. He, and all of you, are remembered in my prayers. Fr. Jim Secora



Fr. Jim Secora - December 29, 2021 at 10:32 AM