

Reiser's Ramblings by Fr. Bernard Reiser

About the author



Father Bernard Reiser - Dec 29, 1924 – Dec 27, 2011 an American Roman Catholic priest known for his preaching and for his charitable giving, both locally and abroad.

Fr. Reiser transferred to St. Paul Seminary in 1944 after attending St. John's University in Collegeville, MN. He once wrote that he considered monastic life for a while, but it became clear to him that Diocesan Priesthood was his calling.

He was ordained on June 4, 1949, by Archbishop John Gregory Murray. His first Solemn Mass was at Holy Name of Jesus, the parish where he attended as a child.



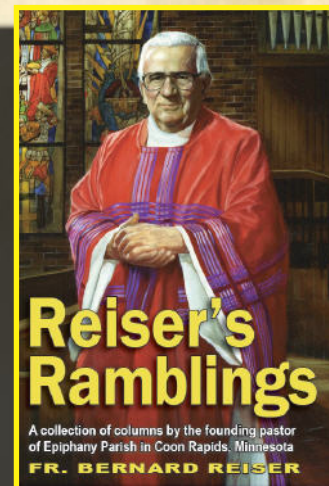
He was assigned to St. Mary of the Lake parish in White Bear Lake, MN. In 1964, Archbishop Leo Binz asked Fr. Reiser to start a parish in the quickly-growing suburb of Coon Rapids. Seventy acres of farmland was acquired for the new church, which was named Epiphany after one of the great feast days of the Lord. He served as pastor from 1964 to 2001.

Everyone who met Fr. Reiser easily saw a kind and compassionate man focused on a principle, to serve others. Working on numerous projects and a commitment to making a difference with his spirited leadership and trust in God, that creates an atmosphere that many others will join in to help. He was the personification of the good shepherd and his contributions provide inspiration to everyone who crossed his path.

"Father Reiser's many years of service have reached far beyond the bounds of the parish into all surrounding communities touching lives. Literally thousands and thousands of individuals and families have been pulled from the depths of despair because of Father Reiser's devotion of time, energy, money and with values of love and respect for every single person. His compassion and humanity has been an inspiration many all over the world. Everyone counts, to this excellent shepherd. The rich, the poor, the sinner, the winner. He is the face of God, to all he meets."

About the book

"Reiser's Ramblings" is a collection of daily/weekly meditations/devotions ~ daily reflections from the best columns written over the past three decades by Father Bernard Reiser, founding pastor of Epiphany Parish in Coon Rapids, MN. In the book, find Fr. Reiser's take on everyday topics such as family, kindness, gratitude, prayer, helping others, and staying focused on what's important in life. Fr. Reiser's essays are rich in symbolism, wise in understanding of human nature, and fruitful in explicating the word of God.



The columns are separated into six sections: Early Life and Key Influences; The Wonder of God's Creation; Our Place in God's World; Counting Our Blessings; God's Grace at Work Within Us; All Eyes on Heaven. Each column is titled and short. So we end up with reminiscences and a lovely book of short, easily read edifying stories and thoughts.

Book Awards

National Indie Excellence Award

Winner - Religion-Non-Fiction.

USA News Best Books Award

Finalist - Christian Inspirational

The Eric Hoffer Book Award

Honorable Mention Winner - Spiritual

Finalist - First Horizon Award.

The Catholic Writers Guild Inc

"Seal of Approval" Award



Memorial comments about Father Reiser from The CatholicSpirit.com Dec 2011

I left church right after communion one day and Fr Reiser was still completing the mass. I went straight to Mercy Hospital. Fr Reiser was leaving the hospital as I entered. I asked him how he did that and he just smiled. I am still baffled.

He helped our family through so many tough times when I was a child, gave both of my parents jobs when they needed them, he was there to help keep them strong. My dad passed away last year and when we called on him to do his memorial service he did not hesitate to help us out even though it was hard for him to get around. He never stopped being there when we needed him. I am so grateful he was there for my father one last time, now they may meet again in heaven.



Fr. Reiser saved our marriage. Many years ago when my husband and I were somewhat new to Epiphany, Fr. Reiser took the time to counsel us during a rocky spot in our marriage. He taught us that no matter who we are or what we do for a living we can bloom where we are planted. This world is a much better place because of his devotion and charity. Thank you Fr. Reiser.

He was a life long servant of God also working seemingly day and night, was founding Pastor of the Church of the Epiphany and Catholic school, also the Reiser Relief Inc., a mission in Haiti that helps meet the needs of the poor, has and showed great faith in the Eucharist and the Mother of Jesus, countless good works and mighty deeds, a true friend to everyone and an authentic Saint. Full of wisdom and common sense, his sermons would touch hearts and sometimes would almost bring water out of the eyes. He was also a healing listener and everything improved or just be strengthened after seeking his counsel, my spiritual father and friend at heart, God bless you forever!

Fr. Reiser helped me re-find my faith on a cold & rainy October evening in 1986. I was lost and showed up at the rectory door. He welcomed me, an unexpected stranger, and spent hours talking me through a very painful time and bringing me back to my faith. A most amazing man and priest!

At the Catholic Church in White Bear Lake Fr. Reiser drove an old beat-up oil burning car, so one Christmas, several members of the church went around and collected \$3,000 from members, so the good Father could buy a new car. The week before Christmas, Father Reiser went around and gave \$100 to 30 families down on their luck. When Fr Reiser left for Coon Rapids and start a new church, the congregation this time they bought a car and gave Father the keys, figuring he wouldn't sell it.

Fr. Reiser was around in my life during my school years and after. I went to Epiphany and he was a person you feared, admired and loved. He also married my husband and myself and baptized our son when we brought him home from Ukraine. He never judged anyone or pressured them to join the church. He took you as you are and never seemed to forget your face. He always greeted you like an old friend. He will be truly missed in my family.



A gentle soul with a heart of gold. Through family troubles, sickness, or death, he was always there for you whenever he could be. A man who loved Epiphany and left us all something to love in his memory. God Bless Father Reiser.

What a wonderful priest Father Reiser was. He had a gift for being able to draw people of all ages in to the church. The nicest marriage ceremony I've ever attended was performed by Father Reiser. How wise he was to advise to the new husband to bring his new bride one rose each month on the monthly anniversary of their

marriage. He will be missed by so many whose lives he has touched. God bless Father Reiser and keep him and let the perpetual light shine upon him.

Father Reiser had just gotten off a plane from Haiti when he received a call from our family that my father-in-law had been taken to Mercy hospital and was not doing well. Rather than send someone else to read him his last rights. He came and did it himself and then sat with us at the hospital for hours. He will be missed by all.

I was 10 years old when I met Father Reiser, and I was very sick. My great aunt lived behind St. Mary of the Lake in White Bear Lake, where she attended daily Mass. I was staying with her and she would bring me to Mass and have father bless me. I always felt his blessings made me well. God bless you Father Reiser, may your soul and the souls of the faithful departed, rest in peace. Amen.



Fr. Reiser was so generous to our Catholic mission in Russia when we were beginning from scratch. He got the parish council to pledge a certain amount each month for our liturgical music development program, and he was instrumental in giving the old Epiphany organ to our parish in Vladivostok as a free gift. It has been a great blessing for our parish and the entire city (of 700,000 people). May the Lord take him immediately to heaven and give him eternal happiness. - Fr. Dan Maurer, Most Holy Mother of God Catholic Church, Vladivostok, Russia.

He truly was a great father! When I was young, I thought he was God. As he walked down the aisle at the start of Mass, he had such a grand presence about him that helped to raise your mind to higher things. He spoke with authority yet with gentleness & of love, kindness, goodness. As I grew up & figured out he wasn't really God, he was so beautifully fatherly as you felt drawn to him b/c he let you know ...he was always there for you - literally day or night he would answer his phone or stop whatever he was doing to listen. He never made you feel like he was in a hurry, even with all the hundreds of things he had going on. You felt like you were his one and only child as he was fully present to each person. It is such a GIFT to have this beautiful image of fatherhood from him - both God the Father & also earthly fatherhood. He poured his life out for his people, for the Church with incredible love & joy & a great sense of humor. Thank you, Father! You are loved & appreciated by countless people!

Fr. Tom Wilson, Once an associate priest at Epiphany for 5 years. Comments from an article in 12/31/2011 title German Shepherd.

As I met parishioners and people from all parts of the country and the world, the reputation of Fr. Reiser went before him. Once I said I was from Epiphany, seemingly everyone "knew" him through a friend, family member, charitable activity he was part of, or the Epiphany Diner at the state fair. There are organs and buildings in several countries that have his imprint on them if not his name. He never sought recognition but it did find him, and when it did, he took advantage of it by bringing attention to work against poverty in Haiti, in Minneapolis, or with the unborn.

Words from Father Reiser - "From the depths of my heart, we will see many more blessings from the Lord in the times to come. We must trust in the Lord with our hearts and spend our time in adoration and participate in the Holy Mass frequently. Continue to pray the rosary and meditate on the mysteries of Our Lord's life. Keep moving forward in the light of Our Lord Jesus Christ."



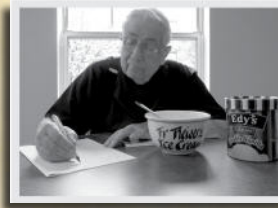
Father Reiser's greatest wish and desire in his life was to bring people to Heaven



Praise For Reiser's Ramblings

There is so much packed into these few pages that it requires the reader to ponder the message and meaning in each column and how, or if, it applies to each individual life.

Reiser's Ramblings is straightforward and worthwhile. Sort of like a combination of listening to your Grandfather's stories, and advice and a visit with your spiritual leader.



I truly feel like I have experienced a Divine connection. "Reiser's Ramblings" touched my mind, heart and soul in a way that I will not soon forget. Father Reiser Writes With Passion, Conviction and Confidence.

The writings talk of his growing up in a farming family, to teaching you how to start and continue having a relationship with God, and the people around you.

Fr. Reiser gave his heart to God as a young priest, placed all of his faith in Him, served all God's people no matter how they looked, how much money they had, what religion they were or how sinful they had become. His love for his fellow man is without compare except to Christ alone.

From life on the family farm, to a life in the priesthood, Reiser draws on a wealth of experience for his writing. Valuable life lessons were extracted from both common everyday situations, as well as those related to his ecclesiastical duties.

I have enjoyed reading a lesson a day, and trying to implement that lesson into the day or week. Fr. Reiser uses everyday happenings and pairs it to life learning lessons. I have found this book inspirational and enjoyable to read.

Reiser's Ramblings
Available in: Hardcover
Softcover & Kindle

All profits from the sale of Reiser's Ramblings go to Haitian relief efforts sponsored by Reiser Relief.

Smartphone QR-Code

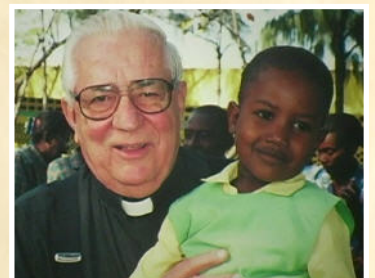


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About the book

Excerpts from Eric Hoffer Book Award Review of "Reiser's Ramblings" "A collection of weekly newsletter columns; a mixture of humorous, sad, nostalgic and inspirational pieces. By turns thoughtful, provocative, or just plain funny, it is the kind of book one can sample, read and reread, or share stories from with family and friends. It is nicely illustrated with black and white photos and drawings. The columns are short, but memorable, and always provide something to think about or learn from. Never stuffy or preachy, Reiser has created an enjoyable reflection of life."

It becomes clear as you page through Reiser's Ramblings that Fr. Reiser clearly loves his vocation as a priest and delights in sharing his years of study and the fruits of his prayer with the reader. Fr. Reiser opens up the Scripture in familiar language, stories, and metaphors that are accessible to the ordinary person in the pew. How uplifting and inspiring to hear the Gospel message woven with from Father's personal life experiences!



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Father's insights are the very best and his approach is brilliant; he teaches through storytelling, which allows the reader to make sense of a complicated world. It doesn't matter if you are familiar with Fr. Reiser and his work — or have only recently been introduced to Fr. Reiser through "Reiser's Ramblings" — you won't be disappointed with this lovely and wise book.