

Legacy Project

October 4th

Brother Bernard Adam Klim, C.S.C.

born: 29 March 1930

died: 4 October 2015



Bernard was born in Detroit. His parents had emigrated from Poland but his mother died when he was two months old. He was placed in an orphanage. He attended elementary school, then worked for a neighbor on a farm and in a General Motors factory. A nun said he had a religious vocation and he went to the juniorate in 1950 and pronounced his first vows in 1952. He told the novice master, *"What little I have, I give it all!"* He worked with Br Flavian Lambert to develop more skills and was assigned to maintenance and gardening duties at the juniorate in Watertown and at Gilmour Academy. In 1959 he went to Rome to work at the Generalate for 15 years, then 11 years at the International School. He often asked to work in the foreign missions. He met a Jesuit Zen Master in Rome and was able to attend summer workshops in New York state and California. When he returned he conducted Zen retreats in Italy. Bernard's creative artistic talents developed by using scrap metal and broken wrenches to produce intricate sculptures which were exhibited in art shows. In 1992 his wish to go to the missions was fulfilled by going to Uganda where he designed and supervised the construction of churches, schools, dormitories, grottos, gardens, water reservoirs and other needs. In 2013 he came to Notre Dame for medical tests and used his mindfulness skills in designing a meditation garden and artistic flower and fountain creations at Columba Hall. His smile, charm, simplicity, and peaceful dignity were evident to all who knew Bernie.

I have stilled and quieted my soul like a weaned child.

-- Psalm 131:2

*"Never stop giving." "Wisdom comes through silence." What matters is:
"How much you loved and how gently you lived." -- His favorite sayings*