



## Ronald Zawilla

December 17, 1948 - December 21, 2024

Dr. Ronald John Zawilla, 76, passed away peacefully in his sleep on December 21, 2024, at his home in Chicago's Rogers Park neighborhood.

Born and raised in St. Joseph, Michigan, Ron was a proud graduate of Lake Michigan Catholic School (now Our Lady of the Lake Catholic High School). A former Dominican Friar, he pursued Philosophy at Loras College in Dubuque, IA, and Church History at Aquinas Institute of Theology. In 1984 he earned a Licentiate in Medieval Studies from the Pontifical Institute of Medieval Studies at the University of Toronto and in 1985, his Ph.D. in Philosophy from the same institution.

Ron's studies took him to The Institut Catholique de Paris, where his work included the study of medieval manuscripts. Ron's academic contributions included serving as an associate professor at the Aquinas Institute of Theology from 1987 – 1990. He was the editor of the International Medieval Sermon Studies Society newsletter. His passion for design led him to teach at the Illinois Institute of Art. Since 1991, Ron has dedicated his talents to Genesis Studio at Watra Church Goods Co., in Chicago, serving as a Liturgical Consultant and Designer.

Ron will be dearly missed by his many friends, colleagues, and neighbors. He was the beloved son of the late John and Florence (Albrecht) Zawilla. He is

survived by his sister Deanna Kolosowsky (the late Alex) of Berrien Springs, MI, and a niece and nephew, Michael (Denyce) Kolosowsky and Lisa (Donald) Paulus.

A private cremation has taken place.

Visitation 10am (11am mass) Thursday, January 23, at St. Clement Parish, 642 W. Deming, Chicago, 60614.

Please scroll through to the photo section to see the worship aid from the service.

Future interment of cremated remains in southwest Michigan.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to The Greater Chicago Food Depository: [https://www.chicagosfoodbank.org/?utm\\_source=google&utm\\_medium=organic&utm\\_campaign=google-business-profile](https://www.chicagosfoodbank.org/?utm_source=google&utm_medium=organic&utm_campaign=google-business-profile).

Arrangements are entrusted to Inclusive Funeral Care, 773-370-2959 or [www.InclusiveFuneralCare.com](http://www.InclusiveFuneralCare.com).

# Previous Events

## Visitation followed by mass

JAN **23**. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Saint Clement Parish  
642 West Deming Place  
Chicago , IL 60614

*10am visitation, 11am mass*

# Tribute Wall

TO

“ I happened to learn of Ronald's death just over a year after the event. He and I had not been in touch for some years (other than commercial emails from Watra), but I have always remembered him fondly since studying Church history under him during his last academic year at Aquinas Institute in St. Louis. An intelligent scholar, a gifted artist, and a very kind person, I hope that he found happiness throughout the second half of his life. Ms. Trish O'Connor, OP MDiv, Aquinas Institute 1992

Trish O'Connor - December 26, 2025 at 01:19 AM

NP

“ I'm so sad to hear of Ron's passing. He was a beacon of joy and grace. I will miss him dearly. I send my love with him.

Norm Plant - October 22, 2025 at 07:01 PM



“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



Team Inclusive Funeral Care - January 24, 2025 at 07:02 PM

KH

“ Ron was a wonderful human being. He was intelligent, thoughtful and a true blue St. Joseph Catholic Pony. (Our school mascot) When you spoke to Ron you knew he was totally focused on you and the conversation. He told wonderful stories about his life and his adventures. We will have our 60th class reunion in 2027 and will raise a glass to you and all our absent classmates. Enjoy your heavenly reward dear friend.

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**Karla Hake** - January 08, 2025 at 09:07 PM

DP

“ Very sad to hear this news. He was a classmate from St Joe Catholic 'Ponies' Class of 1967. This is a photo from our 50th class reunion.



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**Donna Pieracini** - January 07, 2025 at 09:26 PM

PO

“ Well I was saddened to see this information on my feed. Being the same age b/c we were classmates, of course I think we all have numerous years left to live; BUT, knowing Ron I am assured he was ready and happy to meet our heavenly Father. We'll see you later, Ron.

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**Patti Ostrander** - January 07, 2025 at 06:24 PM

GM

“ Gillian McCauley lit a candle in memory of Ronald Zawilla



Gillian McCauley - January 06, 2025 at 05:30 PM

TW

“ Todd Williamson lit a candle in memory of Ronald Zawilla



Todd Williamson - December 30, 2024 at 11:01 PM

NP

“ 3 files added to the album Memories Album



Natalie Pardo-Navejar - December 30, 2024 at 05:48 PM



“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



Team Inclusive Funeral Care - December 30, 2024 at 04:24 PM