



Jerome C. Berrigan

DEC 20, 1919 - JUL 26, 2015



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Jerome C. Berrigan

DEC 20, 1919 - JUL 26, 2015

Jerome C. Berrigan, 95, of Syracuse, passed away peacefully at home Sunday enveloped by an abundance of love. He was born on December 20, 1919, the son of Frida Fromhart and Thomas Berrigan.

Jerome is survived by his wife of 60 years, Carol (Rizzo); sons, Philip (Cindy) and Jay (Tammy); daughters, Maria and Carla (Marc Pittarelli); 5 grandchildren, and his brother Daniel Berrigan.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be offered at noon on Wednesday, July 29, 2015 at St. Lucy's Church, 432 Gifford Street, Syracuse.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Friends of Dorothy Catholic Worker House, 212 Wayne Street, Syracuse 13203.



Events


Jerome C. Berrigan

DEC 20, 1919 - JUL 26, 2015

Funeral Mass

 **Wednesday**, July 29, 2015

 12:00 PM ET

 **St. Lucy's Church**
423 Gifford Street, Syracuse NY 13204-3254





Tribute Wall

Jerome C. Berrigan

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TR

Theresa Ruty, Rsm posted:

To the Berrigan Family, Mr. Berrigan was my junior English teacher at Onondaga Valley Academy in the 1960's. Of all the teachers I had at Valley he has stayed with me the most. In a public school where God could not be mentioned, he taught us values. I remember him teaching us that freedom is not license to do whatever one wanted. He told us that "freedom is the liberty to do what one ought." He wrote it on the board for us to copy. Now reading his obituary I see that he certainly lived that maxim. I recall another quote, which I believe is credited to Thomas Jefferson: "To thine ownself be true, and as night follows day, you cannot be false to any man." These two sayings have often come to my mind and given me direction. Another rule I learned from Jerry, which I follow to this day, is: Read 40 pages of a book before deciding it's not worth reading. Seldom have I discarded a book but once in a while I come to page 40 and decide it's not worth the effort. One day in class he shared a snippet of family life. He rarely shared personal things. Perhaps he was explaining a simile or metaphor, I don't remember. But I do remember him telling us that he was outside at night with his small son. His son said, "Look, daddy, there's God's fingernail," as he pointed to the moon. Sitting in class I couldn't image what the little boy saw in the moon that looked like a fingernail. But many nights through the years I have looked at the sliver of a crescent moon and remembered that little boy's comment--God's fingernail!! I didn't graduate from OVA, but moved to Charlotte, NC for my senior year. After high school I entered the Sisters of Mercy in Rochester NY. Through the years I have followed Fr. Daniel in the news and have read some of his work. But I was not surprised to read that Mr. Berrigan was also an activist. My sincere sympathy to you his family and I pray for the repose of his soul and for all of you as you grieve your loss. Sincerely, Theresa Ruty, RSM

February 2 at 12:03 PM

PC

Patricia Campbell posted:

Carol, It was just by chance that I had a conversation with someone about Syracuse University and they told me of Jerry's passing. What a life he had! I feel so lucky to have gotten to know him when we went to Italy. Sharing stories, drinking wine and laughing until we cried! His life has been an inspiration to so many and I know his infectious smile is forever in my memory. My sincere condolences to you, your family and all that knew him, as I know he will be missed. Love, Pat Campbell

September 9 at 12:32 PM



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HB

Hannelore Bastian posted:

In 1966/67 I was an AFS-exchange student from Germany and had the great privilege of having an inspiring English teacher in Corcoran High School: Mr. Berrigan! It was him who first gave me the idea of reflecting on facts that everybody seemed to consider being 'normal', I was impressed by his courage and I loved the way he dealt with literature and poetry. I never forget him standing in his classroom, reading to us the Amy Lowell poem "Patterns" , ending with " ...For the man who should loose me is dead, fighting with the Duke in Flanders in a pattern called a war. Christ, what are patterns for?"In my bocket book of American Verse I found a letter Jerry wrote to me in 1971: "It seems to me that with konwledeg one must act, there is no alternative, that is the kind of responsibility knowledge carries with it. The question then becomes 'how to act, in what direction?" I am afraid I did not quite live up to what Jerry said and what he did, but I am very grateful I knew him, I am sad to hear he passed away and like to give all my heartfelt sympathy to his family (I had the pleasure to meet while babysitting a few times at his home)Hannelore Bastian (Klüver in 1966/67)

August 20 at 12:47 AM

PM

Phyllis Mcgrath February 16 at 10:07 AM

Quite late to be posting, 2/16/24, I just hear from an OVA classmate of his passing. I am another grateful student. He did so much to inspire all of us and encouragement to reach our potentials. I was a really late bloomer (going to grad school at 54), but I never forgot his encouraging words. You are not forgotten, Jerry Berrigan. Love, Phyllis Yates McGrath OVA '59.

RW

Robert Wolfson posted:

Dear Carol---My sincerest condolences on Jerry's death. I hardly knew Jerry, but if he was your husband for sixty years, and if he put his freedom on the line so many times, as I knew he did, in the best of causes, then I knew, and have known for many years, that his death is a loss for all of us.I can't remember the last time I saw you, but I'll always remember one incident. Betty, our three children and I were at the Metropolitan Museum in New York, looking at some old Roman pottery, when someone flung her arms around me. It was you, with Dan. This was when my son was about 15, the age when most boys (and certainly Paul) are convinced that their fathers are so uncool as to be embarrassing. I introduced you and Dan (we had met several years before) to my family. My stock rose, in my son's eyes, to stratospheric heights. That lasted for a couple of days. Samuel Clemens (Mark Twain) once remarked that he was amazed at how his father's intelligence grew between his (Sam's) fourteenth and twenty-first years.Bob Wolfson 11701 84th Av. Richmond Hill Queens NY 11418wolfson2@gmail.com

August 15 at 10:45 PM



Tribute Wall

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TW

Terri Wilson posted:

I was so shocked to pick up today's copy of the "Catholic Sun" and read that Jerry had passed away, especially after having just read an article about him in the Sunday paper. I really didn't know Jerry very well, but we were colleagues in the English Department at O.C.C. and would often see each other in the hallway. Even though he didn't know me, Jerry always had a friendly smile and a kind greeting. My husband, Gary, and I are deeply sorry for your terrible loss, but we hope you find comfort in the knowledge that Jerry is in the loving arms of the Lord he worked so diligently to serve.
Terri Wilson

August 7 at 7:30 PM

DC

Diane Cattoi posted:

Jerry Berrigan was the most influential teacher in my life. He would not simply grade a paper and hand it back. He would schedule conferences and discuss it with you. During one of those sessions, he told me I had a gift for writing and interpreting literature and suggested I consider teaching. All I needed, he said, was self confidence. That confidence continued to grow with his guidance. I did become an English teacher, teaching in a community college like he did. Thank you Jerry. My sincere condolences to your family. Diane Cattoi, Buffalo, NY. (Former OCC student)

August 3 at 12:14 PM

JM

James Michalowski posted:

Jerry was my first English professor at OCC when I arrived in the late 70s. Soft-spoken and an excellent teacher, I admired his principles, intellect and dedication to his students. James Michalowski, Founding Editor, "Overview."

August 2 at 5:33 PM

AG

Alejandro Garcia posted:

My thoughts and prayers are with the family. Jerry Berrigan was an extraordinary man whose concerns extended to all humanity. We have lost a valuable ally in the ongoing challenge to address militarism, acquisitiveness, and racism. Nevertheless, his legacy remains and we need to keep it alive. Best wishes, Alejandro Garcia

July 31 at 5:00 AM



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DO

Dave Owens posted:

Phil, Matt and family. Thinking of you, at this time of loss.

July 30 at 4:26 PM

DP

Dj Palmer posted:

Mr. Berrigan was a legend in his own time. A kind caring man and a true gentleman. What a legacy he has left behind; "the Berrigan brothers" fought for what was right and just. St. Peter is holding the door for you Jerry. God bless.

July 30 at 9:58 AM

JB

Jeanne Phillips Blair lit a candle in honor of Jerome.



July 29 at 12:09 PM

JP

Julie Hannon Purcell posted:

Growing up on Maywood Drive, I have known the Berrigan family for over 50 yrs. Some of my fondest memories are that of Jerry up on a ladder in my backyard picking cherries from our huge tree. I was told at the time they were for his brothers, the peace activists. I didn't know then what a huge impact his life had and would have on so many. May you rest in peace Jerry knowing that you made a huge difference in so many lives and brought peace and kindness to all you met! My thoughts are with you all Carol, Phil, Maria, Jay & Carla, Your childhood neighbor & friend, Julie Hannon

July 29 at 9:08 AM

RC

Rev. Paul Clark posted:

My heart goes out to you at this time of sadness and loss. Jerry's life and work have inspired me to be a better man and disciple for many years. I wanted you to know. Chaplain Paul Clark, Albright College

July 29 at 8:13 AM



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JH

John Honeck posted:

I only met Jerry once or twice, but I knew of his peace & justice work in Syracuse from many friends, who knew him well. Jerry's work lives on in all of those who ever knew and I mourn his family's loss, but know that he continues to live in them and will watch over them with nonviolent Cloud of Witnesses, who protect us all. Peace. In Christ's Peace, John Honeck

July 29 at 4:49 AM

CM

Colleen Mcleod posted:

To Jerry's Family My prayers are with you. Jerry's humor will be missed so much . I still recall his jokes at the Cabaret. He was such a light in the world and will be truly missed. Sincerely, Colleen McLeod

July 29 at 3:02 AM

KO

Kathleen Owens posted:

To Carol and family, I am so sorry for your sorrow but know that Jerry's beliefs and actions for justice and equality will live on for many, many years to come. He is a legend that will benefit future generations in the telling. May God comfort you at this time. Kathleen Owens

July 28 at 2:54 PM

LC

Lenny Carroll posted:

Mr. Berrigan has been our neighbor for over 20 years. He was a wonderful person who lived a full life. He brought a smile to my wife and my face when we would see him walk with his lovely wife, Carol, or his daughter, Carla, around our cul de sac. Our condolences to his family especially Carla, Carol and Jay. Lenny and Janice Carroll

July 28 at 1:53 PM



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KB

Ken Bowles posted:

In the 1960's, my family lived across the street from the home in which Mr. Berrigan lived until his death and I attended Onondaga Valley Academy from 1957 until 1960 where he taught English. Mr. Berrigan was admired and inspired by all his students at Valley. He also was a friendly and open neighbor, happy to have neighbors and students drop in unannounced. He walked the walk in a time of great upheaval in American history and inspired all of us with his fierce dedication to peace and social justice. He was a leader who never wavered from his loves, loyalties, or principles and never placed himself or his fame above his worthy causes. His name was often and fondly remembered during the final OVA annual reunion held only 4 days ago in Syracuse. As one of many OVA students whose life Mr. Berrigan touched, my sincere condolences to all his family. Ken Bowles, OVA Class of 1960

July 28 at 12:45 PM

RS

Rosemary Salamone posted:

My condolences to Carol and the family of the loss of Jerry. While still at home on LI in the 1970s, my father talked often of the Berrigan brothers and their activism. Many years later we joined St. Lucy's church and met Jerry and Carol. It was a privilege to be a part of the same worshipping community. He was an inspiration and model for living out the Gospel message. Rosemary Ascherl Salamone

July 28 at 10:02 AM

PM

Pat Mignano posted:

I met Jerry when I became a part of Carol's class in Italy. Over the years I had read about the Berrigan brothers and their many protests for peace. The first night of my graduate class with "C.Berrigan" I realized Carol was a part of the Berrigan family. She entered the classroom a few minutes late and smiled while apologizing she was late because she was visiting her husband in jail! I soon learned that Carol was the most patient, positive person I ever met. She is full of faith and love. And after spending time with Carol and Jerry in Italy, Jerry was the same. They were and are the kindest and dearest friends. I am so sad for the loss of this quiet-spoken man. Pat Mignano

July 28 at 8:08 AM



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LW

Leslie Wright posted:

I was truly honored to have this wonderful man as an English professor. His genuine interest in his students was remarkable and appreciated. I'm sure I learned more from him than any other instructor in four years of college. As my own daughter starts college next year, I hope she has at least one instructor who can make literature come alive and provide years of good memories of her college days like he did for me. Rest in peace, Dr. Berrigan, Heaven will be a wonderful new adventure for you. Condolences to the family and thank you for sharing him with his students for so many years!

July 28 at 6:36 AM

MF

Michael Fitzgibbons lit a candle in honor of Jerome.

Heaven has called an angel home! Mr. Berrigan (Jerry) and the Berrigan family have had such a wonderful influenced on my life and society. He was one of my favorite teachers. I remember a visit at his house with Fr. Dan Berrigan arranged with Fr. Dan Mulhauser a few years ago, what an amazing spiritual group of people. You all are in our thoughts and prayers.Mike FitzGibbons



July 28 at 5:50 AM

DS

Debbie Simms posted:

Carol (Dearheart) and Family,My sincerest condolences to you and your family. Carol, having you in my life for all those years at SU and getting to meet that beautiful man, your husband Jerry is something I will treasure forever. He was so incredibly sweet and inspiring! I remember the twinkle in his eye when he laughed and the calm way he had of talking.Dearheart you and your family are in my thoughts, heart and prayers... Love,Debbie

July 28 at 5:39 AM

TR

Tom Rush posted:

Maria and Family,Our condolences to you all, Mr Berrigan was a good man, our thoughts and prayers to you.The Rush FamilySyr, NY

July 28 at 5:32 AM



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PM

Philip Miller posted:

"Mr. Berrigan" was a former teacher of mine. He was one of the finest teachers and finest human beings I ever had the pleasure to meet and spend time with. He had such a charming sense of humor and he was such a gentle man in every respect. Of all the educators I have come in contact with during my educational years - I am now an attorney- "Mr. Berrigan" was and will continue to be one of my fondest memories. Philip C. Miller, Albany, New York.

July 28 at 5:07 AM

MS

Majken Lambert Sellar posted:

My Syracuse father (Alfred Lambert) grew up w/ all the Berrigan brothers and I remember them, although not well, as I was growing up. I do remember hearing stories as a young adult during the Vietnam War and I so agreed w/ their stand but never had the guts to stand up against it myself. I also remember meeting up w/ them again when my Dad died and I think when my Mom, Jeanette, died as well. The Berrigans were all really special people and the world is a much sadder place as they leave us. Rest-in-peace Mr. Berrigan. Majken Lambert Sellar

July 28 at 4:50 AM

LC

Lemoyne College posted:

Please accept the most heartfelt sympathies of Le Moyne College. We hope the love and memories that you will forever hold in your heart bring you peace and comfort during this difficult time. Le Moyne College, Office of Alumni and Parent Programs Syracuse, NY

July 28 at 4:11 AM

MH

Marybeth Horton lit a candle in honor of Jerome.



July 28 at 4:10 AM

MH **Marybeth Horton** July 28 at 4:13 AM

Maria and family I am so sorry for your loss you are all in my thoughts and prayers .If you need anything Maria call me even if its just to talk. Love you Girl Hugs extra tight



Tribute Wall

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LL

Lynne Lewis posted:

Cindy & Phil and family, I am so sorry for your loss. Know that you are all in my prayers. Lynne Lewis

July 28 at 2:51 AM

EG

Elizabeth Goudy posted:

Dear Carol,I was sorry to hear of Jerry's passing. Please accept my sincere condolences. Your old seatmate from Opera.....Betsy Goudy

July 27 at 5:07 PM

CB

Cathy Brochu lit a candle in honor of Jerome.

Mr. Berrigan was an inspiration and a person whom I admired. He not only was gifted with words of wisdom but he lived his life as an example for others. He took risks as so others could benefit. What a fine example he was for this community as well as globally.My sincere condolences to his family.Cathy Brochu



July 27 at 4:40 PM

SB

Sheila Beers posted:

In Mr. Berrigan's English class we learned as much about the social issues of our time as literature and grammar. Affectionately called "Jerry Berry" behind his back, he was respected for his determination in holding to his values. His life served as a model to all of us: a model of looking outside our Valley classroom and seeing the struggles of those around us, a model of concern for those he taught, a model of putting his feet where his faith led him. I have fallen short of his example of how to live out my faith, yet as I reach out to those around me there are remnants of his teaching in my life.His attention to detail in grammar and writing have served me well throughout my education and I am presently a Master of Divinity candidate at the young age of 68. I have only gratitude for him and thank God that for a while in those confusing and challenging 1960s we traveled together.May God send his Holy Spirit to comfort you and reassure you in this time of grief. We have all lost a great man. Evangelist Sheila Kuehn Beers, class of "64, Onondaga Valley Academy

July 27 at 4:04 PM

JC

June Levesque Cullen lit a candle in honor of Jerome.



July 27 at 2:27 PM



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Edward J. Bradley, Sr., Albany, N.Y. posted:

Carol and the Berrigan Family: My condolences on the loss of your most beloved husband, father, grandfather and brother. Your sense and feelings of loss must be overwhelming. Was a student in Jerry's 11 Grade English class (1961-62) at the Onondaga Valley Academy and a fellow parishioner at Saint James' Roman Catholic Church. Both located in the Onondaga Valley of Syracuse, N.Y. His command of the English language and its literature enabled him to be a greatly effective teacher to all of his students. Preparing them for successful careers in college. The beginning of a lasting friendship and source of inspiration. Jerry's principled support and activism on behalf of the American Civil Rights movement along with his justified opposition to the U.S. Military engagement and escalation of what became known as the Vietnam War (1964-73) were both additional sources of inspiration to many others. Exposing the many cultural, social, economic and political "fault lines", still present today, in U.S. society and the lives of many Americans. May your period of bereavement and grief be, mercifully, short. God Bless You All! Edward J. Bradley, Sr., Albany, New York

July 27 at 1:50 PM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Jerome by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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