

Did you know . . .

BLESSED AMONG US: DANIEL BERRIGAN

Daniel Joseph Berrigan SJ, born on May 9, 1921, in Virginia, MN, was an American Jesuit priest, anti-war activist and poet. He was the fifth of six sons.

When he was 5 years old, his family moved to Syracuse, NY. He joined the Jesuits directly out of high school in 1939 and was ordained to the priesthood on June 19, 1952. After college, and a teaching assignment at a preparatory school, in 1957 he was appointed professor of New Testament studies at Le Moyne College in Syracuse, NY. That year he won the Lamont Prize for his book of poems, Time Without Numbers. He founded International House, an intentional community of activist students who seek to live solidarity with the third world poor, and developed a reputation as a religious radical.

Berrigan, like many in the 1960s, protested against the Vietnam War and his participation in the Catonsville Nine got him in serious trouble. Along with his youngest brother, Philip, he and seven other Catholic protestors used homemade napalm to destroy 378 draft files in the parking lot the Catonsville, MD draft board on May 17, 1968. He was arrested and sentenced to 3 years in prison, but went into hiding with help from fellow radicals. It landed him on the FBI's "most wanted list," the first-ever priest on the list. He was apprehended on August 11, 1970 and imprisoned at the Federal Correctional Institution in Danbury, CT; he was released on Feb. 24, 1972.

"Berrigan endorsed a consistent life ethic, a morality based on a holistic reverence for life. As a member of the Rochester, New York-area consistent life ethic advocacy group, *Faith and Resistance Community*, he protested via civil disobedience against abortion at a new Planned Parenthood clinic in 1991." [Wikipedia] Much less public was his service in a home for cancer patients and later with AIDS patients during the height of the epidemic in the 1980s. Berrigan is considered by many to be a Christian anarchist.

Daniel Berrigan died on April 30, 2016 at the Jesuit Infirmary at Fordham University... 41 years after the conclusion of the Vietnam War.

"Peacemaking is hard, hard almost as war. The difference being one we can stake life upon, and limb, and thought, and love." Daniel Berrigan

Judy Pearson

