



Daniel Edward Jennings

November 1, 1929 - June 26, 2020

Daniel Edward Jennings, beloved husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather died peacefully on June 26, 2020 in Spring, Texas.

Dan was born in Burlington, Vermont on November 1, 1929. He grew up in Rutland, Vermont attending Christ the King Elementary School and Mount Saint Joseph Academy. As a young man he was a member of the Green Mountain Club and was an avid hiker and camper. He graduated from St. Michael's College in Winooski Park, Vermont with a degree in English and went on to get a Master of Social Work degree from Boston College.

Dan served on active duty in the US Army Reserve in the Medical Service Corps as a Social Work Officer. He was employed as a Psychiatric Social Worker in San Francisco and also taught at the University of San Francisco. While living in San Francisco he met and married Mary Veronica Gill in 1959.

Dan and Mary moved to Bowie, Maryland where Dan taught at the Graduate School of Social Work at The Catholic University of America in Washington, DC. He received his Doctor of Social Work degree from Catholic U in 1965. Dan taught and was Acting Dean at Portland State University in Portland, Oregon. The opportunity to serve as Dean of the Worden School of Social Service at Our Lady of the Lake University in San Antonio brought the family to Texas.

Dan was a charter member of the National Association for Social Workers and enjoyed attending their annual meetings. He served as a board member for Catholic Charities USA for 9 years. He also served on the Council for Social Work Education, the Conference of Deans and Directors of Graduate Schools of Social Work, and on the Accreditation Commission of the Council on Social Work Education.

In 1978 Dan and Mary moved their family to Houston where Dan served as the Dean of the Graduate School of Social Work at the University of Houston and where he also received the honor of Professor Emeritus. During a yearlong sabbatical from the University of Houston Dan was honored to serve as a delegate to the United Nations representing the NGO Caritas Internationalis.

Dan continued his professional life after retiring from University of Houston through his work as Program Director at Shalom Center in Splendora, Texas. He also worked with the

Jesuit Educational Center for Human Sexuality in Chicago, Boston and Washington, DC. In the early 1970s Dan and Mary were a Team Couple for the Marriage Encounter Movement and then became very active in the Focolare Movement (Work of Mary). During his retirement years Dan enjoyed being able to attend daily Mass. He served as a lector and as an Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist. The privilege of bringing Holy Communion to the homebound provided him with the opportunity to develop new friendships with those he served.

Dan will be remembered for his ability to find the humor in even the most difficult situations. His open heart and willingness to go the extra mile to help others made life a little brighter for many. He was always eager and genuinely interested to hear updates on the lives of not only his children, grandchildren and great-grandson but also any friend that had ever been a part of his life.

His dedication to his wife Mary, especially during the last years of her life, was an inspiration for all who knew him. Health challenges during the last years of his life took their toll on his ability to get around physically but he continued to be concerned about the well-being of not only his family but his caregivers and his fellow assisted living residents. He will be missed by many.

Dan is survived by his daughter Mary (Richard) Cumberland and his four sons: Danny (Jennifer), Phil (Alison), Tom (Sheri) and Bob (Jodi) Jennings and by his twelve grandchildren: Sean (Erika), Drew (Carter), Courtney, Andrew, Joshua, Jacob, Samuel, Hannah, Cole, Lilah, and Sophie Jennings and Will Cumberland and by his great-grandson Paxton Jennings.

He is also survived by his brother and sister-in-law Michael and Vivian Jennings and his sister-in-law Marcille Gill and ten nieces and nephews and their families. He is preceded in death by Mary Gill (his wife of 58 years) and his parents Dan Sr. and Mary Hall Jennings. In lieu of flowers, we ask that you to please make a donation to your favorite organization that promotes unity.

Due to the Covid-19 situation all services will be for immediate family only.

Please use the link below to live stream Mr. Jennings service at 10:30am July 6, 2020

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eel0m9xCITw&feature=youtu.be>

Cemetery

Houston National Cemetery

Houston, TX,

Comments



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Daniel Edward Jennings.



July 13 at 11:17 AM



“ What a gift Dan has been to so many in Texas and beyond! Dan was a beautiful soul along with Mary, his bride and it was such a privilege to know them both. They were certainly a united couple in their endeavors to love the other as themselves to the extent that you couldn't help but respond with love. Their impact on the Focolare Community has been acknowledged for some time for their loving example of God's Light. Dan leaves his "steak of light" as he departs from this life to the eternal bosom of the Father and will be welcomed home by Mary!

Our deepest condolences to all the family. But what a lasting tribute to well-lived lives as both Mary and Dan wanted to bring others to heaven while on their earthly journey. It was a very special adventure and one which touched so many. It was a blessing to know them both!!

May Dan rest in God's Perpetual Light!
Love,
Cindy and Gary Lawson

Cindy Lawson - July 08 at 05:14 PM



“ Rest in peace, Uncle Dan. You were such a good and kind man, and you lived a great life. Prayers for my cousins - you were blessed with wonderful parents.

John Gill

John Gill - July 06 at 12:31 PM



“ to the Jennings family,
my heartfelt condolences for your loss! I still have great memories from the short time
and yet intense experience with Dan and Mary when they lived in Boston while
teaching with the Jesuits. They had the gift to create a warm family atmosphere
among us all in the Focolare community. Thank you Dan and Mary for such a life
lived to the fullest!

Mari Cristi Ferreira - from Brazil

Mari Cristi Ferreira - July 06 at 10:15 AM



“ Dearest Mary and Dan, What a debt we owe you both! Your ardor to love God shone
forth not only from your words, your actions, but from your being for the other. Thank
you. Even on the other side of the world I have felt sustained by your love and unity.

Dear Mary C., Danny, Phil, Tom and Bob, the children... how much Dan's quiet
humor, his integrity and especially his Marian spirit shine forth! I rejoice with him and
with Mary that they have now seen Jesus face-to-face.

You are all in my prayers, and I will be with you today in honoring their love that
never dies.
Mariam

Mariam Adams - July 06 at 09:57 AM



“ Dearest Dan and Mary, it is a joy to know that you are home together, in the presence of Jesus whom you loved so much and who was the purpose of your whole life.

'No one passed your way in vain'... and we all were touched by your gentle, concrete, warm love. You have accompanied me since my arrival to the Focolare in Texas in 1986. We had many unforgettable moments of “family” and your ardor and passion for the charism of Unity was contagious. You both had a fire in the desire to build the kingdom of God through the Focolare charism and were and are for us a point of reference. You have been always present in my life even since I left the U.S. in 2013 and moved to serve the Focolare in Brazil. I have an immense gratitude to God for the gift of your lives, inseparable lives.

Dear Mary Cecilia, Danny, Phil, Tom and Bob,
How grateful I am to God for the gift Dan and Mary have been to the Focolare over all these many years. Their steadfastness, their fidelity were fundamental to the opening of a Focolare in Houston. They will always be, among the pioneers of the Ideal in the Southwest, pillars who sustained the life of the Focolare among so many.
Isabel Furtado – from Brazil

Isabel Furtado - July 06 at 08:04 AM



“ Dan and Mary, will always be part of my life for we met at the Oblate (building that no longer is there) when the Focolarine were first coming telling us about the Focolare was coming to Texas. Then the three of us would come to their apartment and then walk out in the parking lot of the apartment and continue talking and discussing what we had heard. We called ourselves the " 3". Now you and Mary are home. Many shared memories live in my heart. Blessings on all your family dear Mary and Dan.
Norita ----- Eleanor Marie Zepeda

Eleanor Marie Zepeda - July 05 at 07:39 PM



“ Dan and Mary, were and will remain an unforgettable part of my life’s journey. Never will I forget meeting Dan in the pitch dark of night on a Sunday in 1978 at the Santa Fe, NM airport. They were to accompany me to my first Mariapolis. With Mary still in the car, Dan and I cautiously approached one another as strangers dutifully armed with Living City magazines (as instructed) for proof of identification. Our apprehension was transformed by a memorable laugh when we, still strangers, stood six feet apart “armed” and acknowledging that there was no other person within miles..except Mary in the car. A memorable meeting to begin a treasured friendship. Thank you, Dan and Mary, the love you shared and gave witness to is now fulfilled. I am grateful for you both,
Bishop Michael Mulvey

Bishop Michael Mulvey - July 05 at 06:57 PM



“ To the Jennings family,

How blessed you are to have parents like Dan and Mary! I know he will continue to look out for you from heaven in the same gentle way he was here on earth. It was an honor to know him. He was a great guide on my spiritual journey.

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon him.
May he rest in peace.
Amen.

Giodi Baiamonte

Giodi Baiamonte - July 04 at 09:16 PM



“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Daniel Edward Jennings.



July 02 at 09:10 AM



“ My heart goes out to the Jennings family.. RIP Mr Jennings JR

marilyn zwirek - July 01 at 06:13 PM



“ Sending my deepest sympathy and prayers. Our loss is Heaven's gain. Pray for us, dear Dan! Geri Guadagno



Geri Guadagno - July 01 at 05:01 PM



“ Our condolences to the Jennings family -- what a wonderful man you have lost.

Lonne & Erik Martinec - July 01 at 03:55 PM



“ My memories go to the 1980's traveling by bus to the Mariapolis, to las Cruces New Mexico. You and Mary, made that adventure, a very special one. RIP in the heavenly Mariapolis
Joaquina & Brenda

Joaquina Balli - July 01 at 02:39 PM



“ All the councillors of the Volunteers center in Rome offer their thinking and their prayers for the Daniel's soul, being sure he's already in the Paradise.
In unity

Adriano with Paolo and all the councillors
centrovolontari@focolare.org

Adriano - July 01 at 04:04 AM



“ I have known Mr Jennings for over 40 years as the dad of my very dear friend , Mary. I knew he was a professor at UH. But for some reason, I always called him MR Jennings as an uneducated teen and he never once corrected me that he was correctly DR Jennings. I simply knew him as my best friend and roommate's dad. I knew he loved and served The Lord and his family the entire time I knew him. His wit was sharp clever and always kind . He was so humble I did not know of his impressive many professional accomplishments until I read this obituary . My life has been enriched to have known Dr Mr Jennings.

Monica Lemke - July 02 at 04:31 PM



“ Condolence Snacks was purchased for the family of Daniel Edward Jennings Jr..



June 30 at 05:56 PM



“ What's your schedule with Mary this afternoon? I asked Dan who picked me and my wife up from my sister's place to take us to a meeting of the Focolare. Oh! Will be with our amusement. He explained that baby sitting a grandchild was what amusement meant. This was a slice of life of this humble man who in his advanced years of life was so full of enthusiasm for life always ready love even in the small things. I am Asian and was only visiting but I never felt the slightest hint of difference in treatment from him or Mary. He was a genuine model of an ambassador of unity among all men. Bon voyage Dan! You and Mary will be together in the big house of the Father!

Paciente Cubillas Jr - June 30 at 06:20 AM



“ Dan and Mary and my family had a very long relationship since we moved to Houston 20 years ago being part of the Focolare Movement. They're so loving and humble, always ready to respond happily to a need. One time I was at work and my son who was 5th grade then was left behind by the bus and who came to my mind to come to the rescue, Dan. And his response, "I'll be happy to go pick him up, Marga. He was a friend, brother, father, counselor. When I didn't know how to handle my teenage son challenging moments, I call done for advice. He and Mary journeyed with us and part of our family celebrations, birthdays, first communion. They loved my elderly Dad and enjoyed visiting with him, listening to his stories and songs. They were very involved in the Focolare activities and hosted meetings. They were truly a team and traveled internationally for many activities. Dan took care of Mary and would read to her everyday. They truly witness what marriage is to the end. It was a privilege and honor for me to be able to serve them. One day, I decided to bring the stuff to cook, a special stir fry of sugar peas with shrimps. They say in front of the stove as I cooked. I was like a chef on TV. We had fun and had a great meal. We had many moments of sharing and they are always interested to know how each one is in the family and the Focolare.

It was a blessing for me to greet him on Father's Day and then a FaceTime just before he died and he was so serene and happy to hear my updates of the family. His passing is surely God's big gift to him. He's been longing to be in heaven. He had finished the race, he had kept the faith and now will get his reward.(Paul to Timothy) Dan please pray for us with Chiara n the heavenly hosts. Thank you for all your love. Mary C you have been such a devoted daughter. You're a witness of what a son or daughter should be to their parents. God bless you. Love you guys.

Marga Tee - June 29 at 06:56 PM



“ Thank you Dan for your life and love! I witnessed how you found humor in the difficult situations you were in, especially in the last years of your life when your health was failing. Frank and I have been blessed to have known you and Mary through the Focolare. We were really family.

You and Mary shared your own experiences of parenting that helped me a lot.

Even in your retirement you continued to serve the church and community . You set an example of what retirement should be like and how "old age" can be lived fully anchored in deep faith and love for God.

You always beamed with joy and pride talking about your children and grandchildren.

Thank you Dan! Till we meet again !

Our love and prayers to Mary Cumberland and each one in the family.

Augie Rillera - June 29 at 08:22 PM



“ Mr. Jennings was such a gentle, patient soul. I knew him growing up, but my brother, Steve, knew him better. Steve was always impressed with Mr. Jennings and would say as much often. Mr. and Mrs. Jennings were always so kind to us kids and patient with us as we grew up and got a little wild. They always gave us a safe place to play and rest: their home.
My sincere condolences to Mary, Bobby, Tom, Dan and Phil and the rest of his family. I know he will be missed and will always be thought of so fondly by all.

Eileen Galoostian - June 29 at 04:21 PM



“ Visiting Dan after I returned to the US were always moments of deep spiritual unity. He rejoiced with all my updates about the Focolare, especially regarding the youth activities. From heaven and with Mary, you will be our special 'connection.' THANK YOU for your life and love.

Chiara Catipon - June 29 at 09:40 AM



“ Sending comfort and love to the entire family. May you find comfort in knowing he is with your mother and Our Lord and Savior Jesus,
Much love, Dana Sims



Dana Sims - June 28 at 11:56 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Daniel Jennings.



June 28 at 11:17 PM



“ Praying for his family. He is in God’s arms.

Patricia Mitchell - June 28 at 07:54 PM