



Michael David Gergen
June 4, 1947 – May 8, 2022

Funeral Mass for Michael David Nicholas Gergen

GATHERING RITE

Processional Hymn
On Eagle's Wings (#611)

Opening Prayer

Father Brendan Guilfoil

LITURGY OF THE WORD

1st Reading

(Daniel 12:1-3)

Margaret Cipolletta

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 23 (#31)

2nd Reading

(1 John 4:16-21)

Eleanor Cipolletta

Gospel reading

(Matthew 5:1-12)

Father Brendan Guilfoil

Prayers of the Faithful

*Zia & Vida Bushman
Naomi Bailey*



A BRIEF BIO OF A LIFE WELL-LIVED

Michael David Nicholas Gergen, 74, of Chicago passed away, surrounded by his family, on Sunday, May 8, 2022. He was born on June 4, 1947, in St. Paul, Minnesota to the late Fred W. Gergen and the late Eleanor M. (Gaetke) Gergen. In June of 1970, Michael was united in marriage to Margaret Mallinckrodt. The couple had two children, Teresa Margaret Cipolletta (Massimo) and Paul Dietrich Gergen, both of Chicago.

Michael graduated from Nazareth Hall Minor Seminary, St. Paul, in 1966. He furthered his education at Nazareth Hall and later at the University of Minnesota, majoring in art. In 2001 Michael returned to campus life at the University of Illinois Chicago to complete his B.A. and master's degree in Medieval European History with a minor in Church History.

In 1971, Michael and Margaret joined the full-time staff of the Institute of Cultural Affairs (ICA) and poured themselves into the work of community development and social justice in several ICA locations including Minneapolis, Chicago, Atlanta, and Kaohsiung, Taiwan.

In the early 80's, Michael began work in the publishing industry as a graphic designer and print production manager and continued until his return to school in 2001. After completing his degrees and until his retirement in 2009, Michael taught English as a Second Language at a private language school where he enjoyed working with students from many countries across the globe.

Michael had several passions. Among them were Books of all sorts – especially history, poetry, travel, religion, linguistics; Music – classical, folk, opera, jazz; Art – charcoal, sculpture, pastels, graphic design as well as art history and museums; and most particularly his family and wide circle of friends and acquaintances. A hands-on problem solver, he was known to be a presence and a quiet strength, reflective and thoughtful and an anchor in troubled times. He was the quintessential life-long learner – and a true Renaissance Man in every sense of the word.

Michael will be lovingly remembered by his wife, his two children and his two granddaughters, Margaret Lucia and Eleanor Francesca Cipolletta, who know him fondly as Papa. Michael is also survived by his brothers Fred (Janice), Steve (Lois), Dan (Brandy), Tom (Elizabeth), Ed (Darcie), George (Barbara); sister-in-law Annette Gergen; brothers-in-law Steve (Pam) and John Mallinckrodt; many nieces and nephews; and his bonus extended family – the Materazzo-Cipolletta clan.

In addition to his parents, Michael was preceded in death by siblings Jimmy, Jerry, Barbara, Bill, and Mary Jane, by his mother-in-law Betty and by several nieces and nephews.

A celebration of Michael's completed life will be held on Saturday, June 25, 2022, with time and place to be announced. Memorial donations are suggested to ICA-USA (ica-usa.org), Evanston Symphony Orchestra (evanstonsymphony.org), or your local library.



LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Presentation of Gifts

*Teresa Cipolletta
Paul Gergen*

Offertory Hymn

Make me a Channel of your Peace (#726)

Communion Hymn

Panis Angelicus

Eulogy

Teresa Cipolletta

Recessional Hymn

For all the Saints (#793)

***Grief never ends. But it
changes. It's a passage, not a
place to stay. Grief is not a sign
of weakness, nor a lack of faith.
It is the price of love.***



One ought at least to hear a little melody every day, read a fine poem, see a good picture and if possible, make a few sensible remarks.

~Goethe



“When we die,” asked Rabbit, “where do we go?”
“Into the hearts of those who have loved us most.”
said Bear. “That way we’re together forever.”