



## Francis W. Gerding

October 29, 1921 - March 12, 2023

Francis Gerding, beloved husband, father, and grandfather, passed away peacefully at the age of 101 on March 12, 2023 surrounded by his family.

He was born October 29th, 1921 to Henry Sr. and Mathilde Leder Gerding in Corvallis, Oregon. He graduated from Corvallis High School in 1939. He married Carroll Lampert in 1949.

Francis worked in the family feed and grocery store, Gerding's Market, until he retired in 1981.

Francis was drafted into the Army during World War II, and served from 1943 to 1946. He attained the rank of sergeant, and was a member of the General George Patton's Third Army in Europe, serving in the infamous Battle of the Bulge.

Francis was an active member of the St. Mary's Catholic Church in Corvallis. He joined the Knights of Columbus in 1940. He served on many committees and projects at the church over the years. In 1986 he joined the 4th Degree Knights and served as Purser for 25 years.

Francis enjoyed spending time outdoors. Some of his favorite times included camping, hunting, and fishing with his family. He loved farming, gardening,

and watching his family play sports. He founded the Blue Ribbonaires 4H Club in 1950 and served as the leader for 30 years. He was also a lifelong Beaver fan.

Francis and Carroll together raised six children, Bob (Chris) Gerding, Ben (Sue) Gerding, Jerry (Janet) Gerding, Jeanne (Paul) Long, Sandy (Dan) Gellatly, and Sharon (Dennis) Gibson. They were further blessed with 17 grandchildren, 36 great grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

Francis was preceded in death by his parents, brothers and their wives Leo and Mary Gerding and Henry (Hank) and Dolores Gerding.

Family and friends are invited to St. Mary's Catholic Church, 501 NW 25th Street, Corvallis on Friday, March 17, 2023. Viewing 12:00 noon, Rosary 12:30 pm and Mass of Christian Burial at 1:00 pm. Reception to follow. Burial will be private.

If desired, donation can be made to support Stone Soup Corvallis through ST. Mary's Catholic Church or Benton county 4-H Association.

Please share your thoughts and memories for the family at [www.mchenryfuneralhome.com](http://www.mchenryfuneralhome.com).

# Previous Events

## Viewing

MAR 17. 12:00 PM (PT)

St. Mary's Catholic Church  
501 NW 25th St.  
Corvallis, OR

## Rosary

MAR 17. 12:30 PM (PT)

St. Mary's Catholic Church  
501 NW 25th St.  
Corvallis, OR

## Mass of Christian Burial

MAR 17. 1:00 PM (PT)

St. Mary's Catholic Church  
501 NW 25th St.  
Corvallis, OR

# Tribute Wall

JG

“ That is a well-chosen picture of Mr. Gerding. It kind of says it all: Thumbs-up optimism, joyful grin, courage and grace under unimaginable conditions, faithful to the Beavers, his family and The Church. His was a life well-lived and a legacy well-placed. I believe his spirit lives on by the bushel, in those progeny that were raised in his shadow. Peace be with you, Francis.

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**John Gotchall** - March 20, 2023 at 04:31 PM

BM

“ Went on an honor flight to WW2 memorial in Washington DC with Fran and Ben and my father. It was amazing trip. Really appreciated them both. A life well lived.

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**Bruce Morris** - March 17, 2023 at 02:15 PM

LR

“ He was a warm and giving man. I don't ever remember a time when I saw him angry. He had a smile and a hug for everyone. His laugh was instantly recognizable and could be heard anywhere. He loved his family and Carol. They were an amazing example for all of us. He sort of adopted all of us and treated us like family. He was a happy man. I will miss him at our get togethers but will see him again some day. I am so sorry for your loss but I am sure you feel so blessed he was your dad.

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**Lynda Rowley** - March 16, 2023 at 02:35 PM

DY

“ Francis was a life and tractor saver when we lived on Evergreen Road. We dumped a small tractor on its side while clearing brush. All we could do was yell... “Call Francis”! Of course he came and saved us, the rented tractor and the day. God bless his memory, he was a fine man and neighbor.

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**Diane Young** - March 15, 2023 at 09:44 PM

LO

“ Laurie Oleman lit a candle in memory of Francis Gerding



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**Laurie Oleman** - March 15, 2023 at 10:09 AM