

N.A.P.P.



Volume 62

June 2026

No. 6

**Obituary**

**Msgr. Frank Mouch, charter member of NAPP, dies at 93**

**M**sgr. Frank M. Mouch, 93, died April 16, 2026, while under hospice care at the St. John XXIII Retirement Residence in Lutz, Florida. He was a charter member of the



National Association of Priest Pilots, which was formed in 1964.

He was among the initial residents and a champion of the St. John XXIII Retirement Residence,

encouraging his brother priests to live together in community during their retirement years.

Frank Mouch was born on July 25, 1932, in Sandusky, Ohio. He graduated from high school at the Pontifical College Josephinum, in Worthington, Ohio, where he also completed his undergraduate studies and graduate studies in theology. He was ordained on June 10, 1958, for the Diocese of St. Augustine, Florida. Following ordination, he remained at the Josephinum, where he

*See OBITUARY on Page 5*



This undated photo shows the Taylorcraft that Fr. Frank Mouch co-owned while on the faculty at the Josephinum Seminary in Ohio. Next to it is one of the Twin Beech (C-45) military aircraft that the seminary purchased.

**In his early years as a priest, Fr. Mouch was ‘corporate pilot’ for the Josephinum Seminary**

**By Tom Enwright**

**T**he obituary for Msgr. Frank Mouch describes a man of God who devoted more than 67 years of priestly ministry as a seminary rector, college president, superintendent of Catholic education, diocesan administrator and pastor. The homilies offered at his wake service and funeral Mass tell a more personal story about a priest who was a trusted adviser, visionary, collaborator, spiritual guide and a friend to many.

But the aviation chapter of Msgr. Frank’s life story also de-

serves to be shared and celebrated. He was one of two remaining charter members of the National Association of Priest Pilots, which was formed in 1964.

Msgr. Frank died in Florida on April 16, 2026, at the age of 93.

I never met him in person, but I enjoyed our exchange of emails and occasional phone calls. It seemed like we were longtime friends. “Tom, it’s Frank Mouch,” he would say when I answered. Despite the difference in ages (I would have been

*See TRIBUTE on Page 5*

**President's letter: Fr. Allen Corrigan**

# Don't forget to sign up for our annual convention in Akron, Ohio

Dear Members,

Plans are coming together for our annual convention in Akron and Richfield, Ohio, September 14-17. Our host airport for fly-ins will be Akron Fulton International Airport (KAKR) and our lodgings will be eight miles away at the Comfort Inn & Suites in Cuyahoga Falls.



(Please use the RSVP form on Page 3 to let us know you'll be attending, and be sure to make your room reservation directly with the hotel. The room block closes on August 17.)

Our current schedule includes a tour of the Wingfoot Lake Airship Base in Suffield, Ohio, the U.S. home of the Goodyear Blimps. One blimp is scheduled to be undergoing maintenance, so it should be a great tour. I need to confirm this visit on July 1, but it seems quite firm at this point.

I'm in the process of scheduling the rest of our week, but at this point it looks like our annual Mass, meeting and banquet will be at St. Victor Parish in Richfield, not too far from our hotel.

I've already written quite a bit about the Akron area and its importance to the rubber and aerospace industries. Due to its location at the summit of the Ohio and Erie Canal system, Akron also became a vital center for agriculture as a foundational home of the Quaker

Oats Company. Downtown Akron features a huge array of grain elevators that are being converted into a modern hotel.

But in this letter, I'd also like to add some comments about Cuyahoga Falls where our hotel is located. Clustered on the west bank of the Cuyahoga River about a mile north of the hotel are a number of quaint bars and restau-

rants along Front Street. It would be a short, brisk walk or very short Uber ride to any of them. For off-schedule relaxing or dining, there would be numerous options available.

While I continue to work on the schedule, I keep reminding myself that the most important part of our convention is being together. I hope many members will be able to attend the 2026 convention!

Sincerely,


**Allen Corrigan, *President and Convention Host***



All three Goodyear blimps, led by Wingfoot One, fly in formation on June 3, 2025, in Akron, Ohio. (Photo by Jeff Lange, Akron Beacon Journal)

## Letter of Suitability for Ministry

Priests wishing to concelebrate the annual NAPP Mass on September 16 at St. Victor Church must request of their bishop or superior a Letter of Suitability for Ministry and direct it to Bishop Edward Malesic, Diocese of Cleveland, 1404 E. 9th St., Cleveland, OH 44114 with a copy to Fr. Allen Corrigan of St. Victor Parish, 3435 Everett Rd., Richfield, OH 44286 by September 1.



The National Association of Priest Pilots newsletter is published online six times per year (August, October, December, February, April, June). Fiscal year begins July 1. Website: [priestpilots.org](http://priestpilots.org)

Articles, news notes and photos can be sent to Tom Enwright, [napp.editor@gmail.com](mailto:napp.editor@gmail.com). Deadline for the August edition is July 30.

**NAPP Leadership Team**  
 President: Fr. Allen Corrigan  
 1st VP: Fr. Edward Moran    2nd VP: Fr. Bill Menzel  
 Secretary: Fr. Alex Nevitt  
 Treasurer & Newsletter Editor: Tom Enwright

**Regional Directors**  
 East: Fr. Alex Nevitt    Midwest: Fr. Gene Murray

**SAVE THE DATE!**



**2026 ANNUAL CONVENTION**  
 — AKRON, OHIO —

**SEPTEMBER 2026**

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

**SEPTEMBER 14-17, 2026**  
 MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

# 2026 NAPP Convention | Akron, Ohio

Arrive: Monday, September 14

Depart: Thursday, September 17

Our host: Fr. Allen Corrigan, NAPP President

**Special note:** Priests wishing to concelebrate the annual NAPP Mass on September 16 at St. Victor Church must request of their bishop or superior a Letter of Suitability for Ministry and direct it to Bishop Edward Malesic of the Diocese of Cleveland at 1404 E. 9th St., Cleveland, OH 44114 with a copy to Fr. Allen Corrigan of St. Victor Parish, 3435 Everett Rd., Richfield, OH 44286 by September 1.



## Comfort Inn & Suites Cuyahoga Falls - Akron

1420 Main St., Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio

The hotel features NAPP hospitality room, complimentary hot breakfast, premium free Wi-Fi, indoor heated pool and fitness center. This is a smoke-free hotel. Check-in: 3 PM. Check-out: 12 PM.



**Reserve your room by August 17:** Call the hotel directly at: **330-926-1233**. To receive the special group rates, identify yourself as being with the “National Association of Priest Pilots – NAPP” group block.

### NAPP room rates:

- \$125 per night (plus 15.25% tax) for double queen room (10 in the block)
- \$135 per night (plus 15.25% tax) for king suite (5 in the block)

**NOTE:** A deposit for incidentals is required at check-in; there are two options. #1: \$100 authorization on a credit or debit card which will be released within 5-7 business days after checking out or #2: \$250 in cash that will be returned at check-out after housekeeping has checked the room.

**In addition to making your hotel reservation, please send this RSVP to:**

Tom Enwright, 419 Chestnut St., Sauk City, WI 53583. You can email your information to: [napp.editor@gmail.com](mailto:napp.editor@gmail.com)

**NAPP RSVP deadline is August 17**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ CELLPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

### How are you arriving?

**Private plane at Akron Fulton International Airport (KAKR)**

N \_\_\_\_\_ Arrival time: \_\_\_\_\_

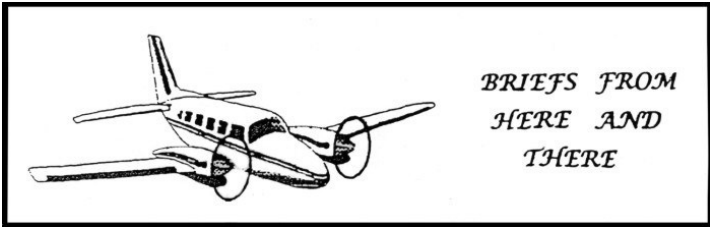
FBO information: [Summit Airport Services](#); phone: 330-733-4760; radio: 122.775

**Airline at Akron-Canton Regional Airport (CAK)**  **Airline at Cleveland International Airport (CLE)**

Airline & flight number \_\_\_\_\_ Arrival time: \_\_\_\_\_

**Arriving by car** Arrival time: \_\_\_\_\_

**Convention costs:** In addition to paying for your own hotel room, members can expect a convention fee to cover other NAPP expenses including hospitality room, annual banquet, activities and tours. Details to come.



**Member priests celebrate anniversaries**

**Fr. Albert Ruschman**, a charter member of NAPP, has been a priest for 73 years. He was ordained May 30, 1953, at the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption in Covington, Kentucky. In retirement, he lives in Alexandria, Kentucky.

Fr. Al wrote a comprehensive history of NAPP in 2022. [Part 1](#) appeared in the June edition and [Part 2](#) in August.

**Fr. Paul Baseford** of Banning, California, has been a priest for 69 years. He was ordained March 19, 1957.

**Fr. Craig Morley** celebrated his 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of priestly ordination on May 19. Fr. Craig is pastor at St. Paul Church in Tampa. Read more about Fr. Craig in the [April newsletter](#).

(Any other NAPP-member priests or deacons celebrating major anniversaries are invited to be recognized in a future newsletter. Email [napp.editor@gmail.com](mailto:napp.editor@gmail.com).)

**Please pray for the health of Fr. Michael J. Murray**, NAPP member and a priest of the Archdiocese of Washington, D.C. He will celebrate his 50th anniversary of ordination as a priest on September 18.

**New assignments and updating the directory:**

NAPP member priests and deacons who are moving to new assignments this summer are asked to update their information for the members-only directory. Please email [napp.editor@gmail.com](mailto:napp.editor@gmail.com).

**Flying Musicians:** The May 21 edition of EAA eHotline noted that the [Flying Musicians Association](#) awarded its 2026 FMA Solo Scholarship to Cameron Milleman of Muncie, Indiana. The scholarship will fund flight training for 18-year-old Cameron, taking him from zero time through his first solo. John Zapp, who manages NAPP’s website, is co-founder, chief executive officer and president of FMA.



**Additional ways to support NAPP:** Please remember NAPP in your retirement and estate plans. Those who need to take a required minimum distribution from their Individual Retirement Account can designate NAPP for a qualified charitable distribution. Also, please remember NAPP in your will. For more information, email: [napp.editor@gmail.com](mailto:napp.editor@gmail.com).

**2026 NAPP Dues – U.S. \$30.00**  
*Fiscal year began July 1, 2025*

*Use this form or use PayPal (go to [priestpilots.org](http://priestpilots.org) and click **Pay Now**).*

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_

STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_



EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

Member category:  Charter  Regular  Associate

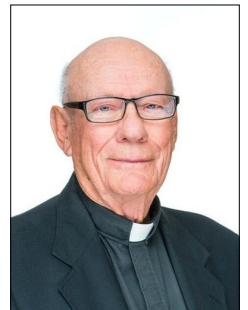
**Make check payable to NAPP and mail to: Tom Enwright, Treasurer, 419 Chestnut St., Sauk City, WI 53583**

In addition to the \$30 annual dues, we encourage members to make a separate donation to the **NAPP Missionary Gift Fund**, which will be used to support the organization’s charitable grants. Donations can be sent to the same address or you can use PayPal. Go to [priestpilots.org](http://priestpilots.org) and click on the **Donate** button.

**From the NAPP archives ...**  
**28 years ago | June 1998**

*Editor’s note: Here is an excerpt from the [June 1998](#) president’s column by Fr. Al Werth:*



Mel (Hemann) wants to get this newsletter to you before you leave for Vancouver. I hope to see all of you there. I wish to thank Mel and Tom O’Neill for arranging this year’s convention. We need to also think about next year’s. I ask you to bring your ideas to the convention. Hopefully we can come up with another good site and with someone to host it.

**I heard this at Wichita:** “Cheyenne Eight Romeo Charlie, cleared to land runway 19L; caution, a large flock of buzzards circling over the approach end of the runway.”

**Cheyenne:** “Roger ... I hope they are not for us.”

**Tower:** “That all depends on your landing.”

## Obituary

## Tribute

### *Continued from Page 1*

served on the faculty from 1958 to 1963. The following year, he enrolled in the University of Florida, in Gainesville, earning a Master of Education degree in 1965. Seven years later, he was granted a sabbatical leave to begin studies at the University of St. Thomas Aquinas (“Angelicum”) in Rome, where he earned a Licentiate in Sacred Theology in 1973, after which he returned to the Josephinum, serving as rector from 1974 to 1984. In April 1975, he was named as a “Prelate of Honor,” and was granted the honorary title of “Monsignor” by Pope Paul VI.

Upon the establishment of the Diocese of St. Petersburg in 1968, he was incardinated as a priest of the new diocese. In 1984, when the Diocese of Venice was established, he was incardinated as a priest of that diocese while continuing to reside in the St. Petersburg area. Over the years, Msgr. Mouch served as temporary administrator and pastor for parishes throughout the Dioceses of St. Augustine, St. Petersburg and Venice. From 1987 to 1996, he served as president of St. Leo College (now St. Leo University). He also worked as assistant chancellor of the Diocese of St. Augustine; director of campus ministry for the University of Florida; superintendent of Catholic education for the Diocese of St. Petersburg; and director of communications, planning, development and building for the Diocese of Venice.

From 1999 until his retirement in 2002, Msgr. Mouch served the Diocese of St. Petersburg as its secretary for pastoral programs.

Funeral services were held at the Cathedral of St. Jude the Apostle in St. Petersburg. The visitation and Evening Prayer were on May 7 with a homily delivered by Bishop Emeritus Robert N. Lynch. The Mass of Christian Burial was on May 8 with Bishop Gregory Parkes as the celebrant and Msgr. Robert Morris as the homilist. Burial was at Calvary Catholic Cemetery in Clearwater.

[The full obituary is available here.](#)

### *Continued from Page 1*

about 2 years old when he was ordained), there was an instant connection. From what I’ve heard and read, that ability to make people feel welcome was one of his spiritual gifts.

The best way to learn about Msgr. Frank’s aviation background is to read a fascinating story he wrote for the [December 2018 NAPP newsletter](#).

*By the time of my ordination in 1958, I had soloed. Staying at the Josephinum Seminary (in Ohio) for my first five years of ministry, I bought one-third of the pictured Taylorcraft and completed the private license and a course in instrument flying at Ohio State University.*

*The seminary had its own 3,000-foot sod airstrip, shade hangar and fuel tank. In 1961, the school was able to purchase from the government two Twin Beech aircraft for \$250 each in flyable condition with top-flight 1951 radios and instrumentation (no autopilot) and I became its “corporate pilot.”*

*The pictured C-45 has patches, since it needed to be flown only from Davis-Monthan Air Force Base in Arizona to Columbus, Ohio, on a ferry permit. It provided many parts for the aircraft we used.*

*I continued flying until last January, having joined the UFO (United Flying Octogenarians) five years ago.*

*While I have not been very active in NAPP’s meetings, our regular gift to the Bishop of Northern Alaska has motivated me to make private donations to that diocese, which needs flying so badly.*



Bishop Gregory Parkes (left) of the Diocese of St. Petersburg presented Msgr. Frank Mouch with the 2022 Fr. Luis de Cancer Distinguished Priestly Service Award during the diocesan annual Convocation for Priestly Renewal. Since 1998, the diocese has honored one priest annually who best exemplifies selfless and dedicated service to the people of God.

He liked to retell that story and once added this footnote: “I concluded my flying career in a Seneca II, which used half the fuel of the C-45 and flew 30 mph faster.”

That love for flying was still evident at age 90 when he wrote in November 2022. I included it in the [December 2022 newsletter](#), with this introduction: “Msgr. Frank Mouch shares this delightful note that’s sure to make you smile and give thanks to God for the gift of aviation.”

*By way of encouragement to all our members, last summer, beginning to reach maturity or, as some people say, having reached what is considered the more advanced age of 90, I took the left seat of an Archer for a few trips in the pattern with a pilot whose mother had given me my first airplane ride 83*

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# Trip to New York State includes Maryknoll visit

By Deacon Mike Madden

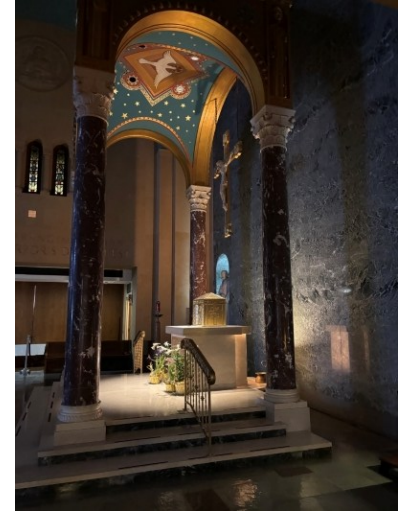
In April, I had the chance to fly my little Cardinal from Green Bay to New York. I landed at KHPN (Westchester County, White Plains) to visit family. A great chance to exercise the little princess (N30639) and experience the New York TRACON procedures!



While there I had the opportunity to visit Maryknoll headquarters in Ossining. I had never visited there, even

though back in the 1960s I had spent a recruitment weekend at their Chicago college seminary in Glen Ellyn. Eventually, I decided the missionary call was not mine, but I've had a heart for their ministries all my life.

We have a retired Maryknoller in our [parish](#), Fr. Carl Meulemans, who grew up across the street from our church and still lives there today! At 92, he still assists at Mass and does occasional sacraments and other celebrations for our Hispanic members. I met Fr. Carl



about 30 years ago and at that time I discovered that he had been on the faculty at Glen Ellyn all those years ago when I was visiting!

Here are a couple pictures of the main building and the chapel in case any of you haven't been there. Had a great visit. Put on just over 18 flying hours and the princess flew great! The whole trip was quite a blessing.

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## Continued from Page 5

*years earlier. My landings were a bit on the hard side, but my friend was charitable, saying, "I have seen worse." Keep at it!*

Msgr. Frank influenced and nurtured the vocations of many priests, but it's also interesting that he passed along, even indirectly, a love for flying.

"Monsignor Frank was rector of the Josephinum when I started," recalls Fr. Joseph McCaffrey, former NAPP president and owner of a Cessna Cardinal. "He was no longer rector by the time I finished my studies, but I do recall that he was a pilot. And that encouraged me to pursue my childhood dream of becoming a pilot myself."

Fr. John Schmitz, who coincidentally is another former NAPP president and owner of a Cessna Cardinal, has this aviation memory from the seminary:

"Monsignor actually took me for a ride one evening with a few seminarians while I was at the Josephinum in 'his' plane. How I was chosen to go, I do not remember or know why he even asked me out of so many students. I think that was an assurance that

priests could be pilots." For Fr. John, that encounter planted the seed for a future in aviation as well as priestly ministry.

## Special place to call home

In 2023, Msgr. Frank shared news that he moved to the St. John XXIII Retirement Residence in Lutz, north of Tampa. Thanks to a significant bequest, it was built by the Diocese of St. Petersburg in association with Angels Senior Living. It is open to priests, religious sisters and Catholics who have disabilities or are in need. In his phone call to me, he expressed enthusiastic gratitude, not just for the quality of the facility and staff, but because of the sense of belonging that he experienced.

As a priest who helped at parishes earlier in his retirement, the new residential facility — complete with a chapel for Mass — gave Msgr. Frank the opportunity to continue ministering to other residents on their journey of faith. That's a remarkable way to await God's call to eternal life.

*Learn more about the residence in this story from the [Gulf Coast Catholic](#).*