



Donald Joseph Nyderek

October 5, 1939 - June 14, 2025

Donald Joseph Nyderek, age 85, died June 14, 2025, in Chicago. Born in Chicago on

Oct. 5, 1939, he was the loving son of Lillian (nee Gorlich) and Michael Nyderek

Donald is survived by his brothers Joseph (Lani) and Michael J. (Robin) Nyderek.

sister Nancy (Ken) Costello, nieces Guenevere Nyderek and Jessica Costello, and

nephews Isaiah and Aaron Costello. He also leaves behind many loving friends,

especially Sheila Mangler.

Donald's passions in life were opera and classical music. He worked as an usher for the

Civic Opera House for over 50 years; there he made many friends among coworkers

and patrons. After 30 years of service, he retired from his day job as a check processor

at the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago in 1994. He also was fascinated by architecture, particularly that of churches. Donald had a great love for animals and

adopted many cats and birds over the years. For years he regularly set out early every

morning, no matter the weather, to feed the neighborhood birds (mostly pigeons, who could recognize him by his jacket) and squirrels while toting large bags of birdseed and peanuts. Someone once dubbed him "Birdseed Boy."

A lifelong devout Roman Catholic (he was a Franciscan brother for a time).

Donald was

a devoted member of St. Gertrude Catholic Church in Chicago, where he served as a

Eucharistic minister.

A memorial service and celebration of Donald's life will take place in Chicago later this summer.

Tribute Wall

KH

“ Donald was a dear friend of my Aunt, Anna Raftis. They worked together at the Lyric for many years. When my Aunt passed away in 2000, Donald and I became Christmas pen pals. I looked forward to his card every year and it was always my first. I will miss his cards and kind words! I know he is in a better place surrounded by his animals and opera playing! God bless your family Donald. Thank you for being my friend!

Karen Hackett - January 18 at 01:58 PM

PA

“ I will especially miss Donald when I pass by Aisle 1 Main Floor at the Lyric Opera. While we were friends through St. Gertrude's, we connected over our love for opera. I'll always think of him when I'm there.

Pamela Sherrod Anderson - August 05, 2025 at 11:11 AM

MH

“ Words cannot express how dear Donald was to ALL of us at St Gertrude.
We will miss his spirituality, his smile and his appreciation of music.
I will also miss his friendship. Here's to you Donald!

Mary Herbin-Horan - July 17, 2025 at 04:12 PM

 Tanyua Green

“ I loved working with him, Donald he enjoyed every job work. I will miss him so Rest Well My Friend. 🙏🙏🙏🙏

Tanyua Green - June 24, 2025 at 06:21 PM

SM

Thank you, Tanuya, or T as he called you.

Sheila Mangler - June 25, 2025 at 03:21 PM

 Tanyua
Green

“ *I love him because always love to my house to my Mother. He enjoyed every job he had and, praying for your family and His Fed family.* 🙏🙏😭😭

Tanyua Green - June 24, 2025 at 06:17 PM