

## **Pilgrimage Continues into the Afterlife for Theodore Henry Amberg**

“Blessed are the dead, who die in the Lord. From henceforth now, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours, for their works follow them.” ([Rev. xiv:13](#))

As the Pentecost *Alleluias* continue to ring out, with the joy and hope of salvation by the action of the Holy Ghost of God among us, we commend to the Lord the soul of our beloved friend Ted – aka, “Hank” – calling to mind his ever-cheerful Bavarian grin and steady example of *bona fide* Christian charity.

How can a man of so many natural talents, and the true grit that it takes to develop them to such levels of perfection as Ted had, manage after all to be a model of humility?

Christ. Christ is the only answer. Only a God could have donated his own life to a great man like Ted to have made him even greater – indeed, to restore His almighty likeness in this big-little man’s soul – by humility.

Amen. What is impossible for man to achieve, is possible for God to work in man. Ted invited Christ into his heart, to do all the ‘heavy lifting’. And the job got done.

Ted was profoundly certain of that action of grace in him. Indeed, Ted showed in an exemplary way the strength and greatness that comes when a man admits he really is too weak and small to achieve only what a God can do – above all, to forgive him his sins. Ted was a steadfast penitent. For those attentive on the many pilgrimages this giant of a humble man walked, they will remember how every stride along the way Ted made was filled with humble penance: head down, eyes lowered, back bent, ears tuned relentlessly to the Priest’s lessons or the brigade’s prayers – plodding, plodding, plodding for miles in silent, sweating penance.

Said one veteran-pilgrim: “I’ll never forget the image of Ted plodding along, in silent penance, all those years. His tenacity on pilgrimage inspired in me a strong Christian hope that one day I also might reach the destination Christ was calling us to.”

Here was a model pilgrim. A Christian ever-striving to act contrary to nature’s inclination to fall: to stand aright with God’s helping hand, and to move to the destination to which God was calling him: to God Himself. A true, persevering friend – first to Christ, then to

Christ's other friends: a man who could stand tall when he had succeeded in seeing himself, in the mirror of self-examination, smaller than everybody else saw his great big natural talents & genuinely impressive earthly accomplishments.

His humility, though, did have a rival. Ted was so charitable to others, not least fellow pilgrims, that had it not been for his generous gifts of "the mammon of iniquity" [aka, "money"] the Pilgrimage for Restoration would have been merely history years ago. And in his almsgiving, there resided the strength of his faith and hope, too: He never lost hope that sinful souls could with grace be restored – by prayer or reparation – to the likeness of God's life. This faith urged on his charity to realize the pilgrimage year after year: precisely so souls could be healed (saved), and so that their restored health would spread like a beneficial contagion to help restore the rest of the members of the Church on earth. And healed they've been, converted (thanks in part to Ted) to The Lord – many of them now living holy vocations in matrimony, in Religious life, and in the sacred Priesthood.

After co-founding the pilgrimage, for years Ted served as a "Director at-Large" – not just in the field on the three days walking to the shrine, but for months and months in advance, generously planning with organizers, including his faithful spouse (and another pilgrimage co-founder) Audrey, who also with Ted co-founded the *Company of St. René Goupil* apostolate. (Audrey almost single-handedly founded the *Company's* First-Aid Team, then directed it for years until she handed over the reigns – which are still in use thanks to her years of good habits.)

In sum, it is thanks to Ted's German-American sense of duty, his gritty immigrant determination, his steady dedication and his ever-ready generous devotion that the pilgrimage was built on a solid spiritual foundation and continues even after 20 years.

Perhaps what pilgrims will best remember about Ted is reflected in what another veteran pilgrim said when learning of his death: "There was a real man, one who kept on going when the going got tough – and who kept on giving to make that look 'easy', too."

Learning all this will help make sense of the director's call to every pilgrim to pray to God in thanksgiving for all the gifts he has bestowed on us through the collaborations of Ted Amberg.

In all, Ted spent 15 years since 1997, his first pilgrimage, thinking about giving to fellow pilgrims. Among his many generous acts of co-founding the pilgrimage to Auriesville, in 1999 he hosted the director to accompany him on the pilgrimage's model & inspiration in France, the *Pentecost Pilgrimage* to the shrine-cathedral of Our Lady of Chartres. Even after it became too much for him to make it to New York, Ted spent months planning to help others learn the meaning of the Gospel. His friends and fellow-pilgrims will be ever grateful for the talents he shared; indeed, for the very gift of himself.

We miss him, sorely. In days of tears already.

May our sadness turn to joy! May Ted shine now among the stars! May his memory be eternal! *Eternal rest, grant your faithful, competent laborer, Theodore Henry, O Lord! And let perpetual Light shine upon him! May his soul, and the souls of all the faithful pilgrim-departed, through the mercy of God rest in Peace. Amen.*

Pilgrims are asked to continue to pray, in their charity, for the repose of Theodore Henry Amberg of Goodrich, MI, who passed away Saturday, July 9, 2016, at age 82. Please also remember to pray the Blessed Virgin Mary for the consolation of Ted's beloved widow, Audrey, his children: Tom, Mike, Susie and Christine: his several grandchildren and all his extended Family at home and abroad.

See obituary [here](#) and [here](#). See eulogy of his pilgrim-friends, [here](#).