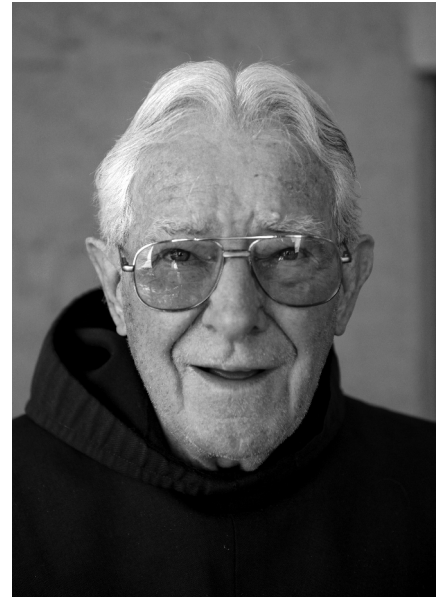




December 1, 2015

Dear Brothers,

For the second time in less than three weeks, Sister Death claimed another of our brothers. Marta Ortiz, our Provincial Health Care Coordinator, called me yesterday morning at 11:35 AM to let us know that our brother, **+Chrysostom Partee**, had died only moments earlier at the Felician Care Center in Rio Rancho, NM. I had seen Chrys briefly on Saturday morning, and he was resting comfortably. Fr. Chrys went into hospice care only ten days prior to his death. He had many friar visitors during his last days, including Father Provincial, who visited him regularly and, of course, his brothers who lived with him in community at the Felicians.



Born Arnold George Partee on May 5, 1924, in Hamilton, Ohio, he was the son of +Harvey Partee and +Theresa (Dilling) Partee. He entered the novitiate of the St. John the Baptist Province, Order of Friars Minor, on August 15, 1941, and professed his first vows on August 16, 1942. He made his solemn profession on August 16, 1945, at Duns Scotus College, Southfield, Michigan, being ordained to the priesthood on June 8, 1950, at Holy Family Parish, Oldenburg, Indiana.

Fr. Chrys ministered in the Southwestern United States most of his priestly life, beginning at Sacred Heart Cathedral, Gallup, NM. He also served in Blanco, Clovis, Jemez Pueblo, Pena Blanca, Roswell and Santa Fe, NM. He served as pastor at Our Lady of Good Harbor Parish in Buras, Louisiana, and was also stationed in Mt. Healthy (Cincinnati, Ohio). Fr. Chrys was very involved in the Cursillo movement, and credits his own Cursillo experience as having formed in great measure his own spiritual journey as a Franciscan in his middle and later years.

Fr. Chrys was known far and wide as a most compassionate confessor and spiritual director. This was reflected in the tremendous amount of his personal correspondence over the years. He was truly a man of prayer and practiced an unwavering faith. He told me when he lived at the Curia that he hoped in his retirement to grow more spiritually, and he spent many hours before the Blessed Sacrament each day. Even in his final decline these past three years at the Felicians, Chrys continued to spend many hours in prayer and meditation, and he always had time to visit with any brother whom he encountered. His kind and gentle spirit encouraged this fraternal concern for others as it fairly radiated from him.

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Fr. Chrys is survived by his brother, Frank Partee, and sister-in-law, Alma, of Dearborn Heights, Michigan, and sister-in-law, Mary Jane Partee, of North Glen, Colorado. His surviving classmate is Fr. Warren Zeisler (St. John the Baptist Province).

Reception of the body and visitation will take place at Holy Family Parish, Albuquerque, NM, on Monday, December 7, 2015, beginning at 9:00 AM. The funeral liturgy will follow at 10:00 AM. Burial will take place in the friars' plot at Calvary Cemetery, Albuquerque, NM.

*Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of men and women,
the things the Lord has prepared for those who love him. 1 Cor. 2:9*

Fraternally,

**Br. Duane Torisky, OFM
Secretary of the Province**