

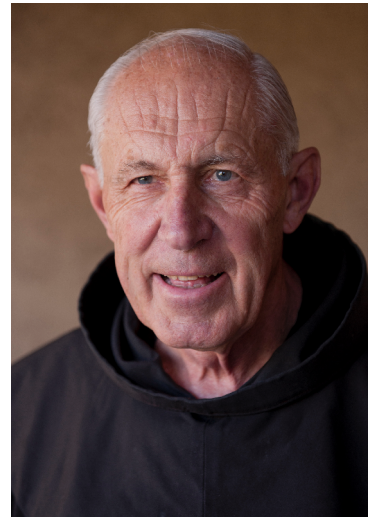


*Our Lady of
Guadalupe
Province*

January 24, 2016

Dear Brothers,

Father Provincial received a call on his way back to Albuquerque after celebrating Masses at the Laguna Pueblo from our Health Care Coordinator, Marta Ortiz, that our brother, +Berard Doerger (80) had died at 11:30 AM this morning at Casa de Rosa Care Center in the North Valley. Berard had been in tenuous health the past several years and, in the months since mid-October, had shown signs of overall steady decline due to complications from Alzheimer's Disease.



Thomas Doerger was born on January 27, 1935, the son of Joseph J. Doerger and Marie Doerger (nee Schehl) in Cincinnati, Ohio. He grew up in the shadow of St. Clement Parish and Friary in St. Bernard, Ohio. Berard was invested with the Franciscan habit on August 15, 1952 at St. Anthony National Shrine in Cincinnati, Ohio, and first professed vows there on August 16, 1953. Solemn profession took place at Duns Scotus College in Southfield, Michigan on August 16, 1956. Berard was ordained priest by Most Rev. Rembert Kowalski, OFM, on June 13, 1961, at St. Leonard College, Dayton, Ohio.

Berard's love of the written word, and his talent for music served him well during his varied ministerial career as a friar priest. He taught at Bishop Luers High School, Fort Wayne, Indiana, when newly ordained. He also served as an instructor at St. Francis High School Seminary, Mt. Healthy (Cincinnati) for seven years. He served as pastor and associate pastor in Buras, Louisiana, Roswell and Cuba, New Mexico, and in Olpe, Kansas. He also ministered at Houck and Lukachukai, Arizona, as well as Laguna, Acoma, and Jemez Pueblos in New Mexico.

Berard was a friar who devoted much of his time to prayer and meditation, and was instrumental in founding several houses of prayer during his ministry: first in Jemez Springs, New Mexico, and later at Houck, Arizona. He spent a year in Bolivia, South America, on sabbatical. He also spent time in Israel and Croatia. His final years of active ministry were spent in Peña Blanca and Albuquerque, New Mexico, before ill health forced his retirement from active ministry in the Summer of 2013.

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Berard was an avid storyteller, and regaled our young friars in formation with tales of St. John the Baptist and Our Lady of Guadalupe Provinces. His love of music spilled over into various provincial celebrations, and he was always ready to lead song fests.

Berard wrote poetry and meditations that chronicled his own spiritual journey. Additionally, he would compose music for his own creative outlet and satisfaction.

Berard is survived by his siblings: Jerry Doerger, Richard (Judy) Doerger, Patricia Mae Doerger, Rita Gullette (+Jim), Elaine Dinkelaker, and brother-in-law Don (+Joanne Doerger) Speed.

Surviving classmates are: Joachim Lux, William Reichl, Reynolds Garland, James Van Vurst, and Bruce Hausfeld, all of St. John the Baptist Province/Cincinnati, Ohio.

Reception of the body will take place at San Juan Diego Friary, 1350 Lakeview Road, SW, Albuquerque, New Mexico, on Friday, January 29, 2016, at 9:30 AM, followed by the funeral liturgy at 10:30 AM. Cremation will take place, and a memorial Mass will be held at St. Clement Parish, 4536 Vine Street, St. Bernard, Ohio, 45217, on Monday, February 8, 2016. Interment will take place at St. Mary Cemetery, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Expressions of sympathy may be sent to Jerry or Patricia M. Doerger, 1116 White Pine Court, Cincinnati, OH 45255.

We would not have you lack understanding concerning those in the sleep of death, lest you yield to grief like the others, who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and yet rose, so also will God bring forth with him those who have fallen asleep believing in Jesus.
(1 Thes 4:13-18)

Fraternally,

Br. Duane Torisky, OFM
Secretary of the Province