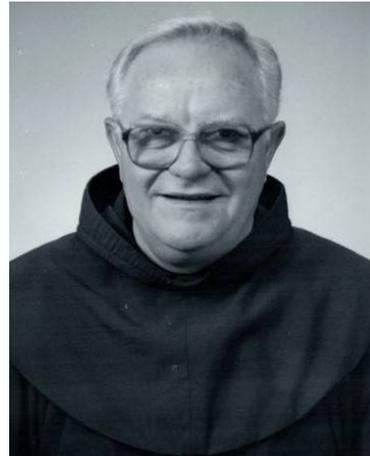




**November 10, 2015**

**Dear Brothers,**

We received word from Deacon Gary Hilbig and Marta Ortiz early today that our brother, **+Nils Francis Thompson** was found dead in his independent living apartment at St. Dominic Village in Houston. He was the victim of an apparent heart attack during the night. Fr. Provincial, Gerry Steinmetz and I were in Houston to celebrate Nils' 50th anniversary as a priest in September and he was in great spirits, having just moved in to the newly completed priests' retirement facility.



Nils was born the son of +Nils Thompson and +Agnes (nee Myers) Thompson, on January 1, 1935 in Galveston, Texas where he grew up. He entered the novitiate at St. Anthony Friary, Cincinnati, OH on August 15, 1954 and was given the name Declan in religion. His first profession of vows took place on August 16, 1955. He made solemn profession at Duns Scotus College, Southfield, MI on August 16, 1958 and was ordained to the priesthood at St. Leonard College in Dayton, OH on June 13, 1963.

To state that our Nils Francis was a free spirit would be a gross understatement! You always knew when he was around. He had the ability to find some idiosyncrasy in everyone and every situation, starting with himself, and was always ready with an anecdote or take on current Church or provincial concerns which left everyone (most everyone...) laughing to the point of tears.

Nils' ministerial life was rich and varied. He was involved in pastoral ministry in Albuquerque, Clovis, Gallup, Parkview and Roswell, NM; in Kansas City, MO and Louisville, KY. He was involved in Ministry of the Word in Mesilla Park and Cerrillos, NM, and Cincinnati, OH (Friarhurst Retreat) and Tres Rios, CA. Nils ministered in the Byzantine Rite in Lorraine and Parma, OH and in Las Vegas, NV.

Nils was tremendously dedicated to the Secular Franciscan movement and was appointed General Spiritual Assistant of the Franciscan Order in Rome in December, 1997. He also served as Chaplain of the Queen of Angels Indian Chapel in Albuquerque for a number of years and was a chaplain of the Assisi Pilgrimage Program for a time.

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Nils' final years spent in retirement in his beloved Texas were good for his physical health and mental spirit. Long before the era of cell phones and the internet, Nils maintained a vast correspondence via "snail mail" and land line phone as well as personal visits which he enjoyed tremendously.

Nils is survived by his sister, Joren Hanrahan of St. Louis, MO as well as numerous nieces and nephews. Surviving classmates are Denet Jung, Jack Wintz and Neri Greskoviak of St. John the Baptist Province.

A funeral Mass will be celebrated at St. Dominic Village in Houston for immediate family and friends on November 16, 2015 at 10:00 AM. A memorial Mass will be celebrated at the Felician convent chapel in Rio Rancho, NM on Saturday, November 28, 2015 at 9:30 AM. Per Nils' funeral directives, cremation has taken place. Inurnment will be in the friars plot at Mt. Calvary Cemetery, Albuquerque, NM.

*If we believe that Jesus died and 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/Notary of the Province**