

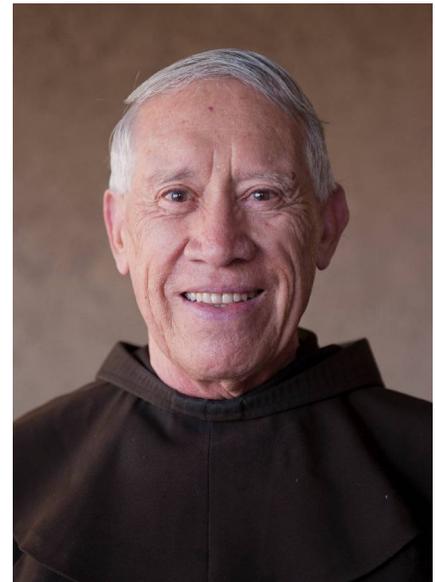


October 24, 2016

Dear Brothers,

We received word this morning from Marta Ortiz, Health Care Coordinator, that our brother, +Salvador Aragon, had passed away in his sleep overnight of natural causes at Assumption Friary in Rio Rancho. Marta noted Salvador “had a cold over the weekend but otherwise had been in good spirits and reasonable health.”

Salvador Telesfor Aragon was born in Peña Blanca, New Mexico, on December 13, 1928, the son of Telesfor Aragon and Guadalupe Montañó. Salvador professed his first vows on August 15, 1947, and his solemn profession on August 16, 1950. He studied at Duns Scotus College, Southfield, MI, and was ordained to the priesthood on June 9, 1955, in Oldenburg, Indiana. He celebrated his first Mass at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in Peña Blanca, NM.



Salvador ministered at many parishes, including Holy Family, Albuquerque, and St. John, Roswell, as well as in Chama, Clovis, Cuba, Los Ojos and Tierra Amarilla, NM, and San Angelo, TX. He was pastor of St. Francis Parish, Gallup, from 1977-1994, and the last Franciscan rector of St. Francis Cathedral, Santa Fe, from 1994-2000. He served on the Provincial Council from 1994-1997, and as Vicar Provincial from 1997-2000. For the past five years, he had lived and ministered as Chaplain for the Felician Sisters in Rio Rancho, NM.

According to Larry Dunham, OFM, Salvador abhorred meetings, but he did “rather enjoy the coming together aspect of the fraternity, the regional meetings.” Salvador told me during visitation in 2015, “To me, death is God’s call to come home. But God’s mercy is there, and you become more accepting of it in your life. We don’t deserve God’s mercy, so that is why it’s mercy.”

Salvador is survived by his sister, Virginia Aragon Long, and brother, Gilbert Aragon, along with many nieces, nephews and cousins.

His surviving classmates are: John Turnbull, Simeon Cleves, and Hilarion Kistner, of St. John the Baptist Province.

Salvador, as with many friars his age, went off to the Franciscan seminary because the only priests he had ever known were Franciscans, and he wanted to be a priest. He became a very good priest. Later on, he discovered the joy and contentment that comes from Franciscan fraternity. His sense of service to God's people, and his brothers, became an inspiration to me.

Truly, Salvador fulfilled with his whole life the 20<sup>th</sup> Admonition of St. Francis:

*“Blessed is that religious who has no pleasure and delight except in the most holy words and deeds of the Lord and with these, leads people to the love of God with gladness and joy.”*

Fraternally,

Jack Clark Robinson, OFM  
Minister Provincial

Reception of the body will take place at Holy Family Parish, Albuquerque, on Friday, October 28, 2016, at 10:00 AM. Visitation will follow. The Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 11:00 AM. A luncheon will take place in the parish hall, and burial will follow at Our Lady of Guadalupe Cemetery, Peña Blanca, NM.