



*Our Lady of
Guadalupe
Province*

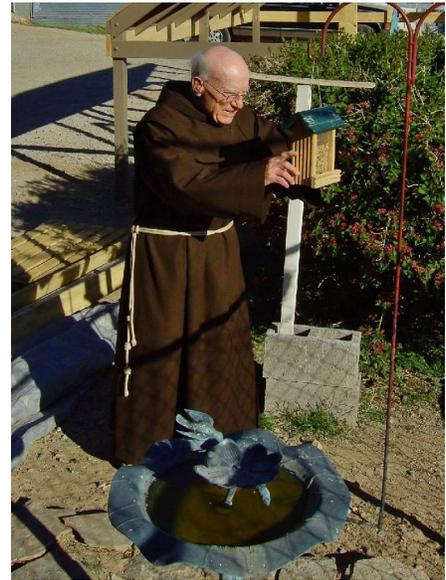
July 11, 2016

Brothers,

Word was received from our Health Care Coordinator, Marta Ortiz, at 1:30 this morning, regarding the death of our brother and senior member of Our Lady of Guadalupe Province, +Terence Rhoades at Villa Guadalupe in Gallup, New Mexico. Terence slipped away quietly at 12:40 AM, surrounded by the Little Sisters of the Poor and nursing staff, who had taken such tender care of him since 2009. I had seen Terence about six weeks ago, and he was quite alert that day and, for the most part, was familiar with his surroundings. In the final weeks of his life, Terence's vital signs tended to fluctuate often, however, he always managed to stabilize, until just a few days before his death.

Harold Vincent Rhoades was born in Detroit, Michigan, on August 6, 1916, the son of Edgar A. Rhoades and Cecilia Ann (nee Smyth). As he told Father Provincial recently: while still young, his family moved "north" to Royal Oak, Michigan, a suburb of Detroit. Terence was clothed with the Franciscan habit on August 15, 1934, at St. Anthony National Shrine in Cincinnati, Ohio, and made his first profession of vows on August 16, 1935. He pronounced his solemn vows on August 16, 1938, at Duns Scotus College in Southfield, Michigan. He was ordained priest on February 24, 1943, at the St. John the Baptist theologate in Oldenburg, Indiana.

Terence spent many years as associate pastor and pastor in Kansas City, Kansas, and Kansas City, Missouri, from 1943 until 1975, mainly at Our Lady of Sorrows Parish and St. Joseph Parish. In July, 1975, he became associate pastor of St. Boniface Parish in Louisville, Kentucky. From July, 1980, until his retirement in December, 2009, Terence ministered in Gallup, New Mexico at Sacred Heart Cathedral, and several times in Tohatchi, New Mexico, and the Zuni Pueblo mission. Terence had a deep devotion to our Blessed Mother and promoted the Legion of Mary in whatever culture he found himself. Some groups that he helped found remain active, both in the Midwest and Southwestern United States.



Terence was an avid “birder” and kept extensive records of various fowl from geographic areas where he was stationed. He loved nothing better than to regale the friars with his “findings” and very likely read most ornithological publications ever written. He could recall from memory the migratory habits of many species, and the types who “stayed put,” as he once opined. He could accurately identify a species by their call and coloring. He meticulously recorded his findings and, as a true son of St. Francis, was enamored of the reflections of God’s glory in all created things, but most especially in his beloved winged friends.

Terence was an unobtrusive presence wherever he found himself. He loved to read and keep current on events, but had little use for television in any form, having “explored” the Learning Channel and History Channel on cable TV and found them wanting.

Terence enjoyed keeping in touch with his family members. His niece, Cecilia Edwards, was very faithful in her devotion to Terence. He has no surviving OFM classmates, and once remarked it a bit odd to find himself the sole survivor of his contemporaries in Franciscan life, “But I soldier on, and will see them all in heaven one day.”

Fr. Terence died 24 days shy of his 100th birthday. When last I spoke with him at the end of May, I asked him what it felt like to be nearly 100 years old. “*It feels like nearly one hundred!*” he replied with a little smile.

The Franciscans wish to thank the dedicated and loving ministry of the Little Sisters of the Poor, who cared for Terence in his final years. Their warm hospitality, kindness and gentleness were a fitting conclusion to a life spent in quiet but constant ministry, always willing to remain in the background, praying for all his brothers. Fr. Terence is survived by numerous nieces and nephews, and great-nieces and -nephews.

Reception of the body took place on Friday, July 15, 2016, at St. Francis Parish at 9:00 AM. Visitation followed, until the time of the funeral liturgy at 10:00 AM. Fr. Jack Clark Robinson, OFM, Minister Provincial, presided, with Fr. Dale Jamison, OFM, delivering the homily. Burial took place in the friars plot at Hillcrest Cemetery in Gallup, New Mexico.

Fr. Terence’s care has been entrusted to Gabaldon Mortuary, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

“I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me, even if he dies, will come to life. And everyone who is alive and believes in me will never die at all.”

- John 11:25-26

Fraternally,

Br. Duane Torisky, OFM
Secretary of the Province