



Rev. Columkille O'Grady

December 12, 1943 - August 19, 2010

Passionist Father Columkille O'Grady, 66, died Aug. 19 at the Msgr. Bojnowski Manor, in New Britain, Conn. He was in the 47th year of his religious life and the 40th year of his priesthood. Born Brian Stephen O'Grady on Dec. 12, 1943 in Dartmouth, Mass., to the late Michael and Bridget "Rita" Dolan O'Grady, he was the youngest of five children. After attending Holy Family High School in New Bedford, Mass., he began his religious studies at the Passionist Seminary in Dunkirk, N.Y. He made his first profession to Passionist religious life on Aug. 15, 1964 at the St. Paul of the Cross Monastery in Pittsburgh, Pa. During his formation he studied at St. Anne's Monastery, Scranton, Pa; Immaculate Conception Monastery, Jamaica, N.Y.; and St. Michael's Monastery, Union City, N.J., where he was ordained to the priesthood on May 28, 1971 by the late Passionist Bishop Quentin Olwell. Father O'Grady devoted much of his ministerial career working in Passionist retreat houses, including St. Paul of the Cross, Pittsburgh; the former St. Gabriel's Youth Retreat House on Shelter Island, N.Y.; Our Lady of Florida, West Palm Beach, Fla.; and the former Our Mother of Sorrows, West Springfield, Mass. He also served with the Passionist home missions in West Virginia. His final active assignment was as a parish mission preacher stationed in Westfield, Mass. During that time, Father O'Grady worked closely with the Catholic Communications ministry of the Springfield Diocese, serving as the regular Mass celebrant for the Passionist-founded "Chalice of Salvation" Sunday televised liturgy, as well as appearing in sacramental instruction videos that

were produced and distributed nationally by Twenty Third Publications. Throughout his ministry, Father O'Grady touched the lives of many, helping them understand the meaning of Christ's passion as experienced through life's trials and challenges. He came to understand suffering in his life in a very personal way when his only sister, Patricia, was killed at the age of 7 in a tragic accident while returning home from her first Communion practice. He was well known for his care and love of gardens, with a special interest in orchids, which were a trademark of his presence in any Passionist residence. On Dec. 31, 1998, while celebrating Mass, Father O'Grady suffered a major stroke which resulted in his early retirement from full-time, active ministry. Though he had limited mobility, he was able to return on a few occasions to celebrate the televised liturgy, his presence offering a powerful example of faith and determination to the viewing audience which itself was mostly homebound and suffering from infirmities. In addition to his religious community, he is survived by his three brothers, Michael J. O'Grady of San Antonio, Texas, John D. O'Grady of Petersham, Mass., and Robert E. O'Grady of New Bedford, Mass. as well as many nephews and nieces. Funeral services will take place on Tuesday, Aug. 24 at Holy Family Monastery in West Hartford, Conn. Viewing will begin at 9 am, followed at 10:30 am by a Liturgy of Christian Burial. Immediately after the liturgy a light lunch will be served at the monastery, followed by an afternoon committal service at the Passionist community grave site at Gate of Heaven Cemetery in Springfield, Mass. Donations can be made in Father Columkille O'Grady's memory to the Passionist Retirement Fund, 526 Monastery Pl, Union City, N.J. Molloy Funeral Home, 906 Farmington Ave West Hartford, Conn. is handling arrangements.

Tribute Wall



“ *My heart is filled with sadness to learn of your passing. I will never forget your kind and gentle soul. We shared many laughs together together at the LCC-W and you will forever have a place in my heart.##imported-begin##nancy clark##imported-end##*

September 07, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ *Be at peace Uncle. You were a wonderful Uncle and Godfather to me. Jake and I will keep you in our prayers always.##imported-begin##Dennis O'Grady##imported-end##*

August 27, 2010 at 12:00 AM

TK

Dennis, I was the housekeeper and parish secretary of this profoundly sad time. I was called at my mom's home. I hope we can meet up to talk. Father Columkille, a gem for the Adams, MA parish community. Love, Theresa.

16 years later, I miss him so much. He always told me about his nephews. We were blessed.

Theresa Kennedy - March 25 at 09:31 PM