

WILLIAM HEERY, O.CARM.
1916-2007

With deep sadness the Order of Carmelites of the Most Pure Heart of Mary Province reports the loss of Reverend William Heery, O.Carm., who died at the age of 91 on Monday, August 13, 2007 in Burbank, California.

Father William, will lie in state at St. Jane de Chantal parish, 12930 Hamlin Street, North Hollywood, California, on Thursday, August 16, 2007 from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm with the Mass of Christian Burial immediately following. The Very Reverend John Welch, O.Carm., Prior Provincial of the Province of the Most Pure Heart of Mary will be the main celebrant. Carmelite Father Augustine Carter, will be the homilist. Interment, Friday, August 17, 2007, at Holy Cross Cemetery in Culver City, California.

William Heery was born in Chicago, Illinois, the son of the (late) Joseph and (late) Anne (Redmond) Heery on March 2, 1916. William attended St. Sabina Grade School with his two brothers and two sisters. Graduating, he attended St. Leo High School in Chicago. After graduation from St. Leo's in 1933, William entered Mount Carmel College, in Niagara Falls, Ontario. While at Mount Carmel in Niagara Falls, Brother William made his simple profession of vows with the Carmelites on August 15, 1936. Three years later to the day, Brother William made his solemn profession to the Carmelites and graduated from Mount Carmel College. Father William Heery, O.Carm., was ordained to the priesthood in Chicago's St. Clara Church on May 23, 1942. Father William then entered Catholic University of America in Washington, DC, where in 1943 he received a MA degree in Sociology. He also did post-graduate work at Notre Dame University and the University of San Diego.

In September of 1943, Carmelite Father William Heery began his ministry career as teacher in his home town of Chicago, where he taught at his former rival school, Mount Carmel High School. After one year's time, Father William served briefly at Joliet Catholic High School in Joliet, Illinois. During his first four years of ministry he also became the Administrator of the Joliet Diocesan Hispanic Mission before beginning parish work at St. Mary's Church in Joliet, in 1948.

In 1949, Father William was called upon to help launch a Carmelite Mission in Santiago, Chile. There he established a parish and served as pastor until 1953.

Returning to the United States of America, Father William continued parish work at St. Cyril's in Chicago. After three years there he once again left the United States, this time to Ottawa, Ontario, where he became the founder and first pastor of St. Andrew Corsini church. After two years in Ottawa, Father William again returned to the United States where he spent the next eight years serving in three assignments of which two were in New Jersey; Immaculate Conception Parish in Norwood, and St. Joseph Parish in Bogota.

During those eight years, he also returned once again to St. Mary's Parish in Joliet, Illinois.

In 1966 he moved to Newport News, Virginia, and served for the next three years at Our Lady of Mount Carmel parish there. Continuing his love of travel, after three years in Virginia, Father William was again on the move, this time to North Hollywood, California. In North Hollywood, Father William ministered at St. Jane Francis de Chantal parish. He remained at St. Jane's for the next 14 years. While there, Father William enjoyed his Spanish Apostolate, teaching in the parish school and serving the Senior Citizens.

In the summer of 1983 Father Heery moved to the status of a semi-retired Carmelite and settled in at Our Lady of Mount Carmel priory in Encino, California. While in residence there, he continued to assist at St. Jane's parish, served in missionary work in South Texas, did chaplaincy ministry at a Juvenile Detention Center in Sylmar, California, and served as a hospital chaplain in Bakersfield, California.

In 2004, Father William moved to Burbank, California, to the Burbank Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center. While there, on May 24, 2007, Father William Heery, O.Carm., celebrated his 65th Jubilee of ordination to the priesthood.

May he rest in peace.

For further information on Reverend William Heery, O.Carm., or the Order of Carmelites contact the Carmelite Communications Center at 630 971-0724 or visit the Carmelite website at www.carmelnet.org.