

CARMELITE REVEREND ROY ONTIVEROS DIES

(January 5, 2009; Darien, IL) The Province of the Most Pure Heart of Mary, Order of Carmelites, mourns the death of the Reverend Roy Ontiveros, O.Carm, who died at the age of 76 on January 2, 2009 at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Priory in Tucson, Arizona.

Visitation for Father Ontiveros will be held Sunday, January 4, 2009, from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Priory, 1540 East Glenn Street, Tucson, Arizona, 85719. A mass will follow. A memorial Mass will also be held at St. Agnes Parish, 1954 N. 24th St, Phoenix, Arizona, 85008 on Wednesday, January 7, 2009. Father Roy will return to his home state of Illinois where visitation will be held Wednesday, January 7, 2009 at the National Shrine of St. Therese, 8501 Bailey Road in Darien, Illinois, 60561 starting at 4:00 PM. A Mass of Christian Burial will immediately follow visitation at 7:00 PM. Burial will take place at 10:00 AM Thursday, January 8, 2009, at Mount Olivet Cemetery, Chicago, Illinois.

Father Ontiveros was born to (the late) Raymond Ontiveros and (the late) Louise (Diaz) Ontiveros on January 29, 1932, in Chicago, Illinois. His given name at Baptism was Albert. He was also preceded in death by his sister, Antoinette (Ontiveros) Molski. He is survived by his two brothers Robert (Rebeka) Ontiveros and Daniel (Lois) Ontiveros, as well as many loving nieces and nephews.

Albert Ontiveros attended Orville T. Bright grade school in Chicago, Illinois. He then attended Mount Carmel High School, Chicago. After one year Albert entered Mount Carmel Preparatory Seminary, Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada, where he completed his remaining years of high school as well as his first college year.

On August 30, 1950, Albert professed simple vows to the Carmelites in the Province of the Most Pure Heart of Mary, taking the religious name "Roy." One year later Ontiveros entered the Novitiate program in New Baltimore, Pennsylvania. Although he had first started on a priestly track, the brotherhood strongly attracted him. His culture (Mexican-American) taught him the value of service for others—so becoming a brother seemed more natural. Brother Roy would spend the next twenty-five years in service as a Carmelite Brother.

In 1951 Brother Roy began his ministry serving as a cook and working in farming in New Baltimore, Pennsylvania. On September 15, 1953, Brother Roy made his solemn profession to the Order of Carmelites in Akron, Ohio. He returned to New Baltimore to continue his ministry. After six years, he moved to Mount Carmel College in Niagara Falls, Ontario. There Roy continued working in farming, maintenance, custodial and clerical duties.

In 1965, Brother Ontiveros was sent to Carmel Catholic High School in Mundelein, Illinois, where he served as athletic director for the next four years. During this time Roy again felt the call to priesthood. "God wanted me to do other things for His people, which only a priest could do," he explained. Realizing that more was required of him, Roy began taking studies from De Paul University in Chicago.

In 1970, Brother Roy moved to Carmel Hall in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. There he would spend the next two years at Marquette University where in 1972 he received his bachelor's degree in Spanish. He then returned to Carmel Catholic High School, Mundelein, to teach Spanish; a position he held for the next three years.

In 1975 Brother Roy moved to Louisville, Kentucky, where he served as Spanish teacher for one year. He then returned to Carmel Hall in Milwaukee, where he entered school as a student at the Sacred Heart School of Theology. He was ordained a deacon on May 21, 1978. In June of that year he began his diaconate internship at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish in Joliet, Illinois. Roy Ontiveros was ordained a Carmelite priest on October 6, 1978 at St. Mary's Carmelite Church in Joliet, Illinois.

Father Roy started his career as a Carmelite priest serving as parochial vicar of Saint Joseph Parish in Bogota, New Jersey. After four years there he moved to Phoenix, Arizona, where he became pastor of Saint Agnes Parish. He served at Saint Agnes for nine years. In 1990 Father Roy moved from Arizona, to North Hollywood, California, where he became pastor of Saint Jane Francis de Chantal Parish. He served the community at Saint Jane's for the next three years.

In 1993, Father Roy moved to Houston, Texas, where he became formation director at Casa Santa Teresita. After three years he moved literally across the street, and became pastor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church. He served as pastor for three years.

In 1999, Father Roy returned to his native land of Illinois. Serving in Darien, Father Ontiveros became the director of Carmelite Carefree Village, a Carmelite owned retirement community. "My Provincial told me that I was the man for the job, and I knew it was time to do something else," smiled Father Roy, during his introduction when taking the helm at Carefree Village. "I was apprehensive at first, being with all older people, but I loved it," he said. Father Roy had a sense that his presence as a Carmelite and a priest meant a lot to them.

In 2002 Father Roy had the thought of retirement and moved to Florida for a time. Having second thoughts he returned to active duty and to Illinois, assisting at Saint Matthew's parish in Glendale Heights, until early 2003. Receiving a call from Very Reverend John Russell, the Prior Provincial at the time, Father Roy was requested to go to New Jersey, and assist at Saint John's Parish in Leonia. Father Roy served at Saint John's for one year before moving to Leavenworth, Kansas, where he was parochial vicar of Immaculate Conception/Saint Joseph Parish. In 2005, Father Roy again

answered the request of his provincial and moved back to Saint John's Parish in New Jersey. This time it was to become the administrator of the parish until his retirement in July of 2008.

He remained retired at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Priory in Tucson, Arizona, until his death.

May he rest in peace.

For further information on the Reverend Roy Ontiveros, O.Carm., or the Order of Carmelites contact the Carmelite Communications Center at (630) 971-0724.