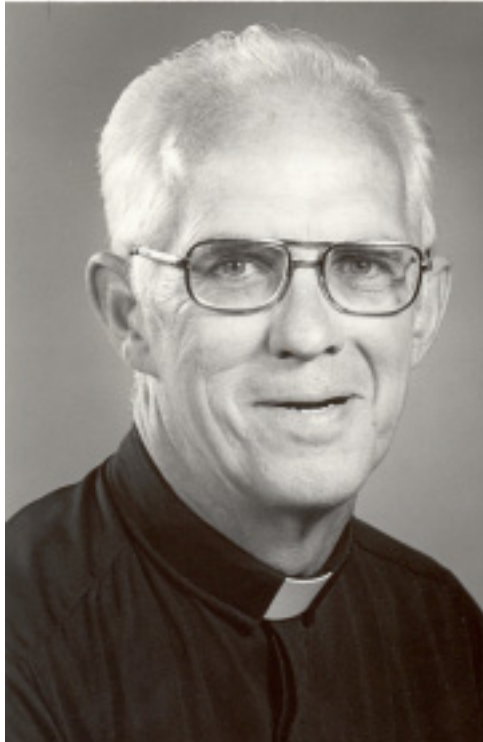




## ORDER OF CARMELITES

### Carmelite Communications Center



The Very Rev. Murray W. Phelan O. Carm.

## FORMER CARMELITE PROVINCIAL THE VERY REVEREND MURRAY W. PHELAN DIES

(August 6, 2002; Darien, IL) The Order of Carmelites of the Most Pure Heart of Mary Province is saddened to announce that the Very Reverend Murray W. Phelan, O. Carm., a former Prior Provincial of the Order has entered into eternal life, dying from complications of heart disease. Father Phelan who resided at the St. Agnes Priory in Phoenix, Arizona was 79 years of age, at his time of death.

Visitation for Father Murray will be held at St. Agnes Church, 1954 North 24<sup>th</sup> Street in Phoenix, Arizona, where Father has served as pastor, on Wednesday, August 7, 2002 from 1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. A Mass of Christian Burial will be concelebrated at 7:00 p.m. following the visitation.

A second visitation will take place in Darien, Illinois at the National Shrine of St. Therese, 8501 Bailey Road on Friday, August 9, 2002 from 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. with a concelebrated Mass of Christian Burial immediately following the visitation at 7:00 p.m. The principal celebrant will be The Very Reverend Bernhard Bauerle, O. Carm., Midwest Commissary Provincial. The homily will be given by the pastor of the Darien Mount Carmel Church, the Reverend Gavin Quinn, O. Carm. An interment will be held at 10:00 a.m., on Saturday, August 10, 2002 at Mount Olivet Cemetery in Chicago, Illinois.

Born in Chicago on August 19, 1922 as the son of the late Michael and Catherine Phelan, Father Murray attended St. Dorothy grade school and delivered newspapers as a youngster before entering Mount Carmel Preparatory Seminary in Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada at the age

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of fourteen. It was there that he began studies for the priesthood in the Carmelite Order. He professed his first vows on August 15, 1941 at the Carmelite Noviate in New Baltimore, Pennsylvania. He returned to his native Chicago homeland and was ordained into the Priesthood at St. Clara's Church on June 7, 1947. For the next five years Father Phelan resided at Mt. Carmel High School in Chicago where he taught religion and math and later served as a counselor.

In 1953 Father Murray joined the faculty at Mount Carmel Preparatory Seminary in Niagara Falls, Ontario, where in addition to his teaching and counseling he became a coach and later, the school rector. In 1966 Father Murray served in this same capacity at DeSales High School in Louisville, Kentucky where he also served as principal.

In 1972 Father Murray became pastor of St. Agnes Church in Phoenix, Arizona. During the next nine years while serving as pastor, Father Murray was appointed as parish coordinator for the Carmelites in the U.S. and Canada, along with ministering leadership weeks and presenting priest workshops for Marriage Encounter Retreats. In 1980 he was appointed as the Marriage Encounter Executive Director. Father Murray ran workshops for parish renewal and for the priests' senate in the Phoenix Diocese where he served as a member and President from 1977 to 1981. He became a member and then President of the Phoenix Diocesan school board from 1972-1976. In 1981 Father Phelan moved to St. Raphael's in Glendale, Arizona where he became the parish coordinator while serving as hospital chaplain.

In 1983 Father Phelan was elected Western Commissary provincial while working at Salpointe High School in Tucson, Arizona. A year later he was elected prior provincial for the (PCM) Most Pure Heart of Mary Carmelite Order, a position he held for seven years.

Father Murray is survived by Sr. Eleanore Phelan, RSM, and his brother, Joseph.

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