



*I am the resurrection and the life, said the Lord:  
he who believes in me will never die. (John 11:25-26).*

April 15, 2005

Dear Father:

Our brother and fellow priest, Father Mel L. Brady, OFM, entered eternal life on Thursday, April 14, 2005, at the age of 82.

The son of the late Hubert and Agnes Brady, he attended elementary and secondary schools in Detroit, and in 1938, enrolled in the high school seminary of the Franciscan Friars of the St. John the Baptist Province in Cincinnati. In 1946, he graduated with a bachelor's degree from Duns Scotus College in Southfield and was ordained to priesthood in Oldenburg, Indiana, on June 8, 1950. He earned a J.C.D. degree (doctorate in Canon Law) in 1963 at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.

Fr. Brady was Director of Students at Duns Scotus College, Southfield. He served with the general administration of the Franciscan Order in Rome. His lifelong dream was to become a missionary. He volunteered for overseas ministry in 1962 and was appointed teacher and Director of Students at Our Lady of the Angels Seminary, Quezon City, Philippines. He left the Philippines in 1977 and returned to Rome to serve as Secretary for Missions for the worldwide Franciscan Order. While in Rome, he worked to develop "The Africa Project," a program that nurtured native-born Africans in the Franciscan way of life.

In 1985, Fr. Brady returned to the States and continued training missionaries through a correspondence course called "Build With Living Stones," a program that helped thousands of people discover a way to live out their Franciscan missionary vocation. Faced with the prospect of retirement, Fr. Brady moved into an area that was completely foreign to him – parish work. In 1996, he was appointed associate pastor of St. Aloysius Parish, Detroit, where he served until his death. At St. Aloysius Parish, Fr. Brady was instrumental in the development of Oasis Detroit, a haven for homeless mentally ill men and women.

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Peters Funeral Home of Warren will be handling the funeral arrangements. Fr. Brady's body will lie in state at St. Aloysius Parish, 1234 Washington Boulevard, Detroit (313-237-5810) on Monday, April 18, from 2 until 9 p.m. with a Prayer Service at 7 p.m. Visitation will continue at the church on Tuesday, April 19, beginning at 9 a.m. until the celebration of his funeral Mass at 10:30 a.m. Burial will take place at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Southfield.

Fr. Brady was preceded in death by his brother, Father Ignatius Brady, OFM, and his sister, Sister Charlita Brady, IHM. Two nieces, Anne Marie and Margaret Ainsworth and a nephew, Mark Ainsworth, survive him. Condolences may be sent in care of St. Aloysius Parish.

Please keep Fr. Brady and his family in your prayers.

Sincerely in the Lord,

Very Reverend Fred Link, OFM  
Franciscan Friars-Province of  
St. John the Baptist  
St. Francis Seraph Friary  
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