



Historical Highlights

Fr. Emilian Meade, O.F.M. Cap.

+August 4, 2001

Emilian Meade was born in Knocknegree, Co. Cork in Ireland on May 8, 1919. He was educated at Rochestown College and entered the Capuchin Franciscan Order in 1938. In 1947 Emilian came to the West Coast to the newly opened St. Francis High School in La Canada where he labored for many years as teacher and principal. He served two terms as principal 1952 to 1956 and again 1963 to 1965. He also spent a short time as teacher at Mater Dei High School in Santa Ana. It is as Custos Provincial (1956-1962) that Emilian accomplished his greatest work. On his coming into office, he urged the Friars to 'pray for vocations.' He continued the work begun by Stephen Murtagh his predecessor. During his six years, an offer of land by the Hourihan family in the Santa Ynez Valley was accepted. A new foundation was established as San Lorenzo Seminary was built and opened on September 4, 1962. The novitiate was moved from Wilmington, DE. A dream was fulfilled, that of having our novices on the West Coast. Now the work of building a new Province in the West could really begin. From 1965 to 1969 Emilian was guardian of San Lorenzo, there he continued to develop and improve the Friary and the grounds. Moving on to new ministries Fr. Emilian was associate pastor at Our Lady of Angels for a short period. In 1975 he was transferred to the Fresno Friary as Guardian and chaplain. He was very diligent in caring for the sick at the Fresno Community Hospital where he was chaplain. In 1991 he transferred to Our Lady of Angels, Burlingame, living out the last ten years of his life in prayerful retirement. He died on Saturday August 4th, 2001 and is buried at San Lorenzo. Fr. Emilian was a humble man, kind and helpful to everyone, an example to all.

In gratitude to our brother, Emilian, and the friars of the Mother Province of St. Patrick, please pray one *Glory be to the Father*.

Adapted from: (Fr. Michael James O'Shea, OFM Cap: Necrology)