



### **Historical Highlights**

**Fr. Edward O'Keefe, O.F.M. Cap.**

**+August 15, 2013+**

Fr Edward O'Keefe was born on May 5, 1929 in Kill, Castlecomer, Co. Kilkenny, Ireland, the son of William O'Keefe and Eileen O'Toole. He entered the Jesuit Order and made first profession at Emo, Port Arlington, Ireland in 1955. He was ordained at Milltown Park, Dublin in 1965 and was sent to the Jesuit Mission at Zambia Africa in 1967. His first contact with the Capuchins came on the banks of the Zambezi River in Central Africa. He was welcomed by the Capuchins and had frequent contact with them during the year. As a result he felt drawn to join the Capuchins; and so he did in the following year of 1968. He returned to Ireland and made his novitiate year. In 1969, he was solemnly professed and remained in Ireland as a Chaplain and ministering in giving parish missions and retreats.

In 1974 he came to Our Lady of Angels in Burlingame, CA as associate pastor. From 1974 to 1981 he was assigned as a hospital chaplain in Fresno, CA. He also was actively involved in Marriage and Engaged Encounter retreats and the Focolare movement. In 1981 he was associate pastor in Hermiston, Oregon. In 1985 to 1987 he was associate pastor at St Francis Parish in Los Angeles and from 1988 to 1991 was associate pastor at St Francis of Assisi Parish in Bend, OR. From 1991 to 1998, he was Pastor at St Lawrence of Brindisi Parish Watts, Los Angeles. From 1999 to 2000, he was associate pastor at Old Mission Santa Ines in Solvang, CA.

In 2000, he once again felt called to go out into the mission field. This time he went to our Mexico mission in Monterrey as guardian of the student community.

In 2010, it became obvious that Fr Ed was rapidly declining in health with Alzheimer's disease and he retired to Mercy Care and Retirement Center in Oakland, CA. After ministering so many years in so many different places, Fr. Ed could no longer minister to others but in his silent prayer. Fr. Ed died at 12:10 pm in the afternoon of the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Mother at Mercy Retirement Center in Oakland, CA. He was 84 years old.