



## Historical Highlights

Fr. Fintan Patrick Whelan, O.F.M. Cap.

+August 10, 2012

Fr. Fintan Patrick Whelan was born in Dublin, Ireland on December 20, 1930 the son of Peter Whelan and Elizabeth Byrne. His baptismal name was Patrick Joseph. He entered the Capuchin Order on October 3, 1953 at Rochestown where he received the habit and made his Solemn Vows on October 4, 1957 at St. Bonaventure's in Cork. He was ordained on September 24, 1960 at Ards Co. Donegal.

Before he entered the Capuchin Order he received a Bachelor degree in engineering in 1953 from University College Dublin. He then received a Master of Arts degree in 1957 from University College Cork. After his ordination Fr. Fintan was sent to Rome for post-ordination studies and received a Licentiate in Sacred Theology from the Gregorian University in 1962 and after his return to Ireland he became Vice-Master of Novices in 1962 at Kilkenny, Ireland. In 1965 he was sent to San Lorenzo Novitiate in Santa Ynez, CA where he worked as Novice Master until 1968. Subsequently, he worked as an Associate Pastor at St. Joseph Parish in Roseburg, Oregon until 1970. For the following twelve years he was a teacher at St. Francis High School in La Cañada, CA as well as Guardian, and Definitior. In 1982 he was assigned to Our Lady of Angels Parish in Burlingame as Associate Pastor for three years and later on for six years as Pastor and Guardian. In 1989, he received a Doctorate in Ministry from the Graduate Theological Foundation at Notre Dame, Indiana. Fr. Fintan went back to the Santa Ynez Valley in 1991 as an Associate Pastor at Old Mission Santa Ines in Solvang. For the next seven years, he was in residence in Burlingame and Bend and then he returned to the Santa Ynez Valley, this time to San Lorenzo Friary. For the last few years, he was assigned to St. Francis of Assisi Friary in Burlingame, CA. His last few months were spent at Mercy Retirement and Care Center in Oakland, CA where he received wonderful care.

Fr. Fintan was a man of great talents. His degree in physics allowed him to be a great teacher at St. Francis High School in La Canada, CA. He was also a good preacher who could always come up with a story, often one that would make the congregation laugh. He was a skilled athlete and loved to play tennis, to ski, and to play golf. His second avocation was gardening. He had a great devotion to St. Pio of Pietrelcina, helped organize a Padre Pio prayer group at the Provincial Friary and led a pilgrimage to his shrine.

Fr. Fintan died peacefully at Mercy Retirement and Care Center in Oakland on August 10, 2012.