



Historical Highlights

Fr. Cyprian O'Leary O.F.M. Cap.

+December 4, 1977



Cyprian O'Leary was born November 9, 1905 in Aherla County Cork, Ireland. In 1936 he was assigned to work with the Capuchins in the United States. In 1937 he was appointed Pastor at Old Mission Santa Ines where he remained until 1939. From there he was transferred as Guardian to St. Patrick's Friary in Wilmington Delaware, which was also the novitiate. In 1946 he was again appointed Pastor at Old Mission Santa Ines. During his term as pastor, the Old Mission received a grant towards restoring the mission buildings. The second floor was restored and the bell tower was taken down and rebuilt according to the original model. Speaking of this work, Cyprian often boasted as being the, "only Friar who rose the roof off the Mission". In 1951 Cyprian was transferred from the Old Mission and was made associate at Our Lady of Good Counsel parish, Fort Bragg where he helped Finnian O'Carroll in building the new Church and Rectory. Later he spent time as associate at St. Lawrence of Brindisi, Los Angeles. From there he was transferred as associate to St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Los Angeles. When the new ministry of hospital chaplains opened in Fresno, California Cyprian was assigned as one of the chaplains. His final assignment was to the community at San Lorenzo Friary, our novitiate, in the Santa Ynez Valley. Here he lived out his last years. He was loved by the novices and by all the people of the Valley. He was a good community Friar, he had a fund of knowledge, he read a lot and had a special interest in Canon Law. He liked discussions and solving problems. Cyprian suffered from many ailments, but his disposition was always pleasant. He had a facility of relating to and helping those in need and suffering. As his health began to fail, he had difficulty in walking and moving around. On December 4th, all medical means exhausted, the Sacrament of the Sick was administered to Cyprian in the presence of the community. He died peacefully within a few hours. Cyprian is buried at San Lorenzo.

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

(Fr. Michael J. O'Shea OFM Cap - Necrology)