

CARMELITE REVEREND CHARLES J. COUNTIE DIES

(November 15, 2008, Darien, IL) The Province of the Most Pure Heart of Mary, Order of Carmelites, mourns the death of the Reverend Charles Joseph Countie, O.Carm. Father Countie died at the age of 74 on December 29, 2008 at the Lahey Clinic Medical Center, Burlington, Massachusetts.

Visitation for Father Countie is Friday, January 2, 2009, from 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Our Lady of the Scapular Carmelite Priory, 4 Wheatland Street, Peabody, Massachusetts. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated Saturday, January 3, 2009, 10:00 a.m., at the Discalced Carmelite Monastery, Danvers, Massachusetts, with burial immediately following at St. Mary's Cemetery, Peabody, Massachusetts.

Father Countie was born to (the late) Francis I. Countie and (the late) Marion P. (Powers) Countie on Jan 25, 1934 in Peabody, Massachusetts, the Counties family later lived in nearby Salem. Father Charles is survived by his three brothers, Francis J. Countie (Marcia), Ralph L. Countie (Jeannette), and William G. Countie (Elizabeth) along many numerous loving nieces and nephews.

Charles Countie attended grade school at Saint John Parish, where he and fellow students were visited by Father Humphrey Connors, O.Carm., vocation director for the Carmelite province. Father Countie also was a student at the now-closed Sacred Heart Academy, Andover, Massachusetts, before attending high school at Saint Mary High School, Lynn, Massachusetts.

Through his interaction with Father Connors and other Carmelites, Charles Countie entered the Carmelite Junior Seminary located in Hamilton, Massachusetts, in 1947. Though his year at Hamilton was foundational, County would not continue pursuing the Carmelites until 1952 when he was a pre-novice at the Carmelite's Infant of Prague Villa, Akron, Ohio. There he began religious formation to become a brother.

One year later Countie entered the Novitiate program in Akron; then, exactly twenty years to the day of his own baptism, on February 11, 1954, Countie professed simple vows to the Order's Province of the Most Pure Heart of Mary, taking the religious name "Gregory."

Following his profession, he continued studies at Saint John's Parish, New Baltimore, Pennsylvania. On February 11, 1957 Brother Gregory, made his solemn profession to the Order of Carmelites at Hamilton, Massachusetts.

In his first assignment as a brother, Countie was assigned to Mount Carmel High School, Chicago, Illinois. There he simultaneously served on the high school staff while also becoming an active member of the Carmelite Community of Saint Cyril.

Relocating to Peru in 1965 Brother Gregory would minister to parishioners of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish in Miraflores, Lima, while simultaneously teaching English at the parish's high school and working at the local Catholic Relief Center. In 1967, Brother Gregory earned a bachelor's degree in religious education from Facultad de Santo Toribio, a seminary program in Lima, Peru.

After developing ministry skills through interaction with families and students, Brother Gregory returned to the United States in 1974 to enroll in continuing education at Merrimack College in North Andover, Massachusetts.

By this time, Countie would make the decision to focus on theological studies, transferring to Pope John XXIII Seminary in Weston, Massachusetts, in preparation for priesthood.

On May 6, 1978 in Danvers, Massachusetts, Charles Countie was ordained a priest; in the decades to come he would see many opportunities to develop his ministry to God's faithful. He began with a one year assignment at Salpointe Catholic High School, Tucson, Arizona, where he served as chaplain to the student body.

Between 1975 and 1981 Father Charles Countie assisted the Provinces' vocational efforts. During this time he was transferred to Saint Gertrude Parish in Stockton, California, where he became their associate pastor.

In 1981 Father Countie continued his mission service working in Miraflores, Lima, Peru, where he resumed his previous pastoral and teaching ministries. Father Charles would later remark that he believed that his years in Carmelite's Peruvian missions were his most fruitful.

Pastoral ministry would remain Father Countie's area of focus for years to come, serving as Associate Pastor in several Carmelite parishes. These communities included: Saint Anastasia Parish, Teaneck, New Jersey, 1983 to 1984; Saint Therese Parish, Cresskill, New Jersey, 1984 to 1986; Saint Cecelia Parish, Louisville, Kentucky, 1986 to 1989 and Saint Gertrude Parish in Stockton, California, in 1989.

After one year as Associate Pastor in Stockton, Father Charles Countie was appointed pastor of Saint Gertrude Parish. Father Countie would remain pastor until 1999 when he returned to Massachusetts to serve at Our Lady of the Scapular Priory, in Peabody. There he staffed the Carmelite's Chapel of Saint Therese, locally situated within the Northshore Shopping Center, a ministry to consumers and store employees.

At the start of the new millennium, Father Countie aided the formation staff at Casa del Carmen, a Carmelite pre-novitiate house, located in the Tlalpan neighborhood of Mexico City, Mexico. In 2002 Father Countie's position of associate pastor of Our Lady

of Mount Carmel Parish, Joliet, Illinois, was followed by his retirement to Our Lady of the Scapular Priory, Peabody, in January 2004. It was there that Father Charles Countie would remain with fellow Carmelites, active in the lives of friends, family and neighbors until his death.

For further information on the Reverend Charles J. Countie, O.Carm., or the Order of Carmelites contact the Carmelite Communications Center at (630) 971-0724.