

## **BROTHER VINCENT DESTRO, O.CARM.**

(February 25, 2009, Darien, IL) The Province of the Most Pure Heart of Mary, Order of Carmelites, mourns the death of the Brother Vincent Destro, O.Carm. Brother Vincent died at the age of 78 on February 24, 2009 at the Carmelite Carefree Village assisted living facility in Darien, Illinois

Visitation for Brother Vincent Destro, O.Carm., will take place on Thursday, February 26, 2009, from 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. at Carmelite Carefree Village, 8419 Bailey Road, Darien, Illinois, 60561. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday after the visitation. Very Reverend John Welch, O.Carm., Prior Provincial of the Province will be the main celebrant and homilist. Burial will take place on Friday, February 27th at 10:00 a.m. at Mt. Olivet Cemetery, Chicago.

Born March 28, 1930 to (the late) Alfio and (the late) Annunciata Destro in Akron, Ohio, Brother Vincent met and interacted with the Carmelites brothers and priests at an early age through his father's work for the Catholic Church.

Baptized at Saint Martha Catholic Church, he later received the Sacrament of Confirmation at Saint Anthony Parish, both located in Akron. As a boy, Vincent attended Saint Hedwig Grammar School, Jennings Middle School and later Goodrich Trade School.

Brother Destro is survived by his sister Phyllis Nagy, brother Alfio Destro and numerous nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents and brothers (the late) Anthony, (the late) Joseph, (the late) Louis and (the late) Nunzi Destro.

Destro's proximity to the Carmelites in Akron was a direct influence on his desire to enter the Order as a "Brother of Our Lady of Mount Carmel." There in his home town in 1954, he became a Carmelite pre-novice at the Infant of Prague Villa, then the formation program for Carmelite brothers within the Chicago Province.

In February of 1955 he was accepted in the one year Novitiate program; taking Simple Vows to the Order of Carmelites on February 11, 1956. It was then that Vincent took the religious name, "Peter." This past February marked the fiftieth Jubilee of Brother Vincent's Solemn Profession of Vows. Fifty years ago on February 11th Brother Vincent confirmed his commitment to supporting the ministry and good works of Carmelites throughout his province.

After taking Simple vows, Brother Vincent was assigned to Whitefriars Hall, the province's major seminary, in Washington, DC. In 1958 Destro would join the staff at the priestly novitiate located on site of Saint John's Church in New Baltimore, Pennsylvania,

remaining there until 1964. That year Brother Vincent took an assignment at the retreat house located on the campus of the Carmelite Junior Seminary in Hamilton, Massachusetts.

After two years in Massachusetts the man from the Ohio Valley moved south to Louisville, Kentucky. The Carmelite community attached to De Sales Catholic High School had great demand for Brother Vincent's assistance. Soon thereafter, the high school staff learned of his diligent work ethic and employed him to the benefit of faculty and students. Following in the footsteps of Saint Therese of the Child Jesus, Brother Vincent led a simple life; one of dedication and obedience to God's community while living the Carmelite charism.

In 1969, Destro returned home to Akron, serving at the Villa and would be one of the last men to secure the property as the Carmelites departed from the once vibrant farm operation and formation program there.

Returning to Louisville in 1970, Brother Destro would remain a constant in the administration of the high school operations for over thirty years. His longevity in this assignment was a testament to his service and rapport with the high school community. Brother Vincent would grow to call Louisville home and thoroughly enjoyed all that the city and its culture had to offer.

Gladly beginning a well deserved retirement in 2003, Brother Vincent Destro joined several of his Carmelite brothers at Carmelite Carefree Village retirement home in Darien, Illinois. The combination of his penchant to remain active and the proximity of the provincial administration allowed Brother Vincent to once again establish himself as a resource, aiding the leadership and its Communications Center.

In February of 2006 friends and family gathered around Brother Vincent Destro, O.Carm. as he renewed his vows to the Order of Carmelites at the hands of the Father David Simpson, O.Carm., Commissary Provincial for the Midwestern Region. The liturgy in thanksgiving of Destro's 50th Jubilee of Simple Profession was followed thereafter by a grand banquet in his honor.

Brother Vincent's easy-going demeanor, omnipresent smile and endearing laughter were just some of the numerous qualities which will cause all who knew him to mourn his death. Vincent was a faithful Brother of Mount Carmel who was willing and ready to serve when asked.

For further information on the Brother Vincent Destro, O.Carm., or the Order of Carmelites contact the Carmelite Communications Center at (630) 971-0724 or visit the Carmelite website at [www.carmelnet.org](http://www.carmelnet.org).

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