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Contact: Sal Lema  
Carmelite Communications Center  
630.971.0724 Fax: 971-0817  
[ccc@carmelnet.org](mailto:ccc@carmelnet.org)

### **CARMELITE REVEREND KEVIN THOMAS SHANLEY DIES**

(February 26, 2007; Darien, IL) With deep sadness the Order of Carmelites of the Most Pure Heart of Mary Province reports the loss of Reverend Kevin Shanley, O.Carm., who died at the age of 76 on February 25, 2007 at St. Patrick's Residence in Naperville, where he has been in hospice, after a severe stroke that he suffered, February 10, 2007.

Father Kevin, will be waked at The National Shrine of St. Therese, 8501 Bailey Road, Darien, Illinois on Thursday, March 1, 2007 from 3:00 pm to 7:30 pm with a wake service following at 7:30 pm. A Mass of Christian Burial will take place at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, 8404 Cass Avenue, Darien, on Friday, March 2, 2007 at 10:00 am. Visitation will also be held at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church on Friday morning from 9:00 am to 10:00 am. The Very Reverend John Welch, O.Carm., Prior Provincial of the Most Pure Heart of Mary Province, will be celebrant. Internment at Mount Olivet Cemetery in Chicago. In lieu of flowers, please make donations to the Carmelite Spiritual Center in Darien, Illinois.

Kevin Shanley, was born in Jersey City, New Jersey, the son of the late Michael Joseph and Mary Margaret (O'Neill) Shanley on October 17, 1931. His parents were Irish-born immigrants who came to the United States in the late 1920's. Kevin Shanley was enrolled in Saint Aloysius grade school before entering the Carmelite Junior Seminary in

Hamilton, Massachusetts. Graduating in May of 1949, he attended Mount Carmel College in Niagara Falls, Ontario. He made first profession of vows in August 30, 1950 in New Baltimore, Pennsylvania and his solemn profession in September of 1953, in Washington, DC. Continuing his studies at Saint Bonaventure University, he earned his BA degree in Philosophy and History in 1954. He was ordained a priest on May 26, 1956 in Hamilton, Massachusetts.

After his ordination, Father Shanley received a MA degree in Theology from Whitefrairs Hall, Washington, DC in 1957; a MA, in Journalism from Marquette University, Milwaukee, Wisconsin in 1967; a MA, in Psychology from the Adler Institute of Psychology, Chicago, Illinois in 1985 and a D.MIN., (Doctorate in Ministry) from University of Saint Mary of the Lake, Mundelein, Illinois, in 1996. Additional graduate studies included Catholic University of America, Washington, DC (Journalism); Canisius College, Buffalo, New York, (Education); Notre Dame University, South Bend, Indiana, (Journalism); Lewis University, Romeoville, Illinois, (Education); Loyola University, Chicago, Illinois, (Celtic Studies); University College Dublin, Ireland, (Irish Studies).

As a newly ordained, Father Kevin began his career at the former Joliet Catholic High School in Joliet, Illinois where he served as teacher and dean of students from 1957 to 1962. In 1962 he moved to Darien, Illinois, where for the next twelve years served as Communications Director for the Province and editor of *The Sword*, a journal of historical, spiritual and contemporary Carmelite issues. He was also editor of the Carmelite news paper, *Carmelecta*, which later became the current news magazine, *Carmelite Review*.

In 1967, in addition to serving in communications, Father Kevin returned to Joliet Catholic high school as Chair of the English Department.

After graduating from the International Summer School of Irish Studies at University in Dublin, Ireland, Fr. Kevin taught Irish history and literature courses in the adult education program at St. Xavier University in Chicago, Illinois, for 17 years. He also directed the “Irish Way” program for American teens at Gormanston College in County Meath, Ireland.

In 1987, after twenty years of teaching, Father Kevin joined the staff at Carmelite Spiritual Center, in Darien. There he served as psychotherapist, conducting his private practice in pastoral counseling, presenting lectures on Irish history, while maintaining the Carmelite News Service (which he founded) and the Celtic News Service. As director of the Celtic News Service, Father Kevin’s work became an invaluable tool in the dissemination of Irish news to the various newspapers, magazines, radio and TV stations throughout the United States and Canada. He was a regular columnist for Irish American News, Oak Park, Illinois, and Catholic Explorer, Diocese of Joliet, Illinois and the Senior Connection. He has also written columns on Irish affairs in newspapers across the country.

Pastorally, Father Kevin served many parishes where he celebrated Mass, of which St. Isaac Jogues in Hinsdale, St. Daniel the Prophet in Wheaton, and Holy Family in Joliet, Illinois are only a few. On May 26<sup>th</sup> of last year Father Kevin celebrated his 50<sup>th</sup> jubilee of Ordination.

Fr. Kevin received many honors for journalism and his work for the Irish American.

In 1961 he received a Newspaper Fund fellowship from the Wall Street Journal. In 1962 and 1963, he received the Outstanding Teacher of Journalism Award. He was the 1977 recipient of the Bronze Medallion from the Irish American Cultural Institute, St. Paul,

Minnesota. In 1979, he received the Irishman of the Year Award from the Harp and Shamrock Club of Chicago, Illinois. In 1983, Father Kevin received the Honorary Alumnus Award from Joliet Catholic High School, Joliet, Illinois. In 1983, he received two Jesuit Literary Awards. In 1985, the Irish American Society of Will County, Illinois named him, Man of the Year. In 1988, he received the Leadership Appreciation Award from the Joliet Catholic Alumni Association. As a member of the Catholic Press Association, Father Kevin received "General Excellence" awards nine times between the years of 1973 and 1991.

May he rest in peace.

For further information on Reverend Kevin Thomas Shanley O.Carm., or the Order of Carmelites contact the Carmelite Communications Center at 630 971-0724.

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