

Franklin Tasker, O.Carm.

1928-2009

By Jorge Mora

The Province of the Most Pure Heart of Mary, Order of Carmelites, mourns the death of the Reverend Franklin Tasker, O.Carm., who died at the age of 81 on Sunday, November 8, 2009, in Englewood, Florida.

Visitation for Father Franklin was held Wednesday, November 11, 2009, at 9:30 AM, followed by a Memorial Mass at 11:00 AM at St. Raphael Church in Englewood, Florida. On Monday, November 16, 2009, a visitation was held at 4:30 PM at St. Matthew Parish in Glendale Heights, Illinois, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at 7:00 PM. He was buried on Tuesday, November 17th at Mt. Olivet Cemetery in Chicago, Illinois.

Father Franklin was born to (the late) John Tasker and (the late) Mary E. (Calligan) Tasker on February 17, 1928, in Chicago, Illinois. His given name at baptism was Robert James. He is survived by his brother George Tasker and sister Irene Vitt, and was preceded in death by his brothers Jim and John Tasker.

Robert James Tasker attended Holy Rosary Grade School and Mount Carmel High School in Chicago, Illinois. After graduating from Mount Carmel High School he continued on at Mount Carmel College in Niagara Falls, Ontario. On August 30, 1950, Robert professed simple vows to the Carmelites in the Province of the Most Pure Heart of Mary, taking the religious name "Franklin." On September 27, 1953, Franklin made his solemn profession with the Carmelites. After graduation from Mount Carmel, Franklin went to Olean, New York, where he studied philosophy at St. Bonaventure University. On May 26, 1956, he was ordained a priest. He received an advanced degree in Sociology from the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana, in 1961.

Father Franklin began his ministry serving as a teacher at Mount Carmel High School in Houston, Texas. In 1966 he became the Director of the Society of the Little Flower in Canada and a teacher at Mount Carmel College in Niagara Falls, Ontario. In 1970 he returned to Houston to become the Associate Pastor of St. Albert Parish. In 1975 Father Franklin was named Pastor of St. Mary Carmelite Parish in Joliet, Illinois. In 1977 he was called back to Houston to help build St. Bernadette Parish, of which he became Pastor. In 1984 he became Director of Carmelite Carefree Village in Darien, Illinois, where he was instrumental in building their Chapel. In 1986 Father Franklin was called to assist in building St. Matthew Parish in Glendale Heights, Illinois, of which he became Pastor.

In 1989, Father Franklin retired to Carmel at Mission Valley in Nokomis, Florida. During his retirement he was the administrator for building the Carmelite Retirement House at Carmel at Mission Valley in Nokomis. He remained in Nokomis until his death.

May he rest in peace.