



FRANCISCAN FRIARS • PROVINCE of ST. JOHN the BAPTIST  
*Office of the Secretary of the Province*

March 13, 2018

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Our brother **Conrad Rebmann, OFM**, embraced Sister Death around 5:30 on Monday morning, March 12, at St. Margaret Hall in Cincinnati. He was 93 years old. Conrad was a humble man who deflected recognition of his accomplishments, so he would hate this letter. But here we go anyway, Conrad!

Born on October 21, 1924, in New York, New York, Thomas Francis Rebmann was one of two children of Frank and Mary (Kane) Rebmann. He was baptized at St. Malachy Church in midtown Manhattan and attended Assumption Parish Elementary School. After attending Straubermiller Textile High School and Cathedral College Prep School, he entered Franciscan formation at Duns Scotus College in Southfield, Michigan, in 1943 and was invested as a Tertiary in 1944 receiving the religious name Conrad. During these Tertiary years, Conrad worked as a tailor before entering the Novitiate in 1947. He professed his first vows on August 16, 1948 at St. Anthony Friary in Cincinnati, Ohio. Then Conrad returned to Duns Scotus as an accomplished tailor and vestment maker; he made his Solemn Profession on August 16, 1951.

In 1958 Conrad moved to St. Joseph Brothers' School in Oldenburg, Indiana, where he continued tailoring and was named Brothers' Vocation Director. As Vocation Director and, later, Director of Brothers' Formation, Conrad lived at St. Francis Seraph Friary (1962-1969) and St. Anthony Friary (1969-1973) in Cincinnati. Conrad loved the study of Franciscan spirituality and history, and he was able to share that love with those in discernment to join the Order. He helped develop programs to introduce interested young men to the Franciscan spirit and Franciscan life. And his own spirit touched many older friars as well, friars who have acknowledged Conrad as a role model over the years.

After a sabbatical that included the Assisi Study Pilgrimage and studies at St. Bonaventure University, Conrad moved to Pleasant Street Friary in 1974 for a year ministering as the assistant to the principal at St. Francis Seraph Parish School and then to St. Clement Friary working in the office at Roger Bacon High School for a year. In 1976 Conrad moved into Vocation ministry again, this time at St. Francis Seminary, for ten years.

Another mini-sabbatical prepared Conrad for his next assignment working in the Finance Office of the National Association of Religious Brothers in Chicago. But this job didn't give Conrad the contact with young people he had come to treasure during his vocation recruitment days. In 1988, Campus Minister Fred Link invited him back to Cincinnati to work at Roger Bacon High School as the Community Service Coordinator and member of the Pastoral Team. The program Conrad built for student service outreach became a model recognized and imitated by several high schools. In recognition of his contributions to Roger Bacon, Conrad received the Joseph A. Kneip

Award for outstanding service to the school by a faculty member. And Roger Bacon established the Brother Conrad Rebmann Service Award to annually recognize outstanding student service.

Finally, in 1998 Conrad retired at St. Clement Friary; and, when his aging body required additional care, he moved to St. Margaret Hall in 2013. During retirement, he kept up his voracious reading in Franciscanism and Franciscan spirituality. His dream was to return to Assisi, but poor health kept him from fulfilling that dream.

Conrad was preceded in death by his parents and by his sister, Frances McInerney. He is survived by his niece, Mrs. Richard Lundgren, and several cousins. He is also survived by novitiate classmate Valentine Young. Personal expressions of sympathy may be sent to Conrad's family through

Mrs. Richard Lundgren  
36-41 32nd Street  
Astoria, Long Island, NY 11106

We will receive Conrad's body at **St. Clement Church** in St. Bernard, Ohio, on **Thursday, March 15, at 6:00 p.m.** The **Mass of Christian Burial** follows at **7:00 p.m.** Interment will take place on Friday morning, March 16, at 10:00 a.m. in the friars' plot at St. Mary Cemetery in St. Bernard, Ohio.

Fraternally,



Dan Anderson, OFM  
Secretary of the Province

*CONRAD, MAY THE ANGELS LEAD YOU INTO PARADISE;  
MAY THE MARTYRS RECEIVE YOU AT YOUR ARRIVAL  
AND LEAD YOU TO THE HOLY CITY JERUSALEM.  
MAY CHOIRS OF ANGELS RECEIVE YOU;  
AND WITH LAZARUS, ONCE A POOR MAN,  
MAY YOU HAVE ETERNAL REST.  
AMEN.*