

De Colores! Remembering Fr. Tim O'Callaghan by Jim Pompe

I attended the vigil and funeral Mass for Fr Tim O'Callaghan at St Agnes Church on Friday, June 3rd. It was like attending an Ultreya with all the Cursillistas there. The funeral was presided over by Very Rev. Carl Markelz, O. Carm. who heads the Province of Carmelites to which Fr Tim belonged.

Fr Bradley Peterson, the Pastor of St Agnes gave the homily, and it was quite a story of the very special life of Fr Tim and the many, many people whose lives he touched. There were a great many stories given during the Vigil even about when he was younger. One that stands out is that Father was a great sports fan, especially of the Boston Red Sox. My dad was a Bosox fan too and even named me after one of his favorite players, Jimmy Foxx. After all those years of futility watching the Red Sox fail, they finally won the World Series in 2004, and Fr Tim got to celebrate that, however, that was the year my dad passed and he missed out.

On the last visit I had with Fr Tim, we talked about that, and he also bragged about the beautiful Golden vestment that was made for him, which was displayed in a painting on the wall of his care room. That painting sat next to the casket at the Vigil. Fr Markelz wore it for the funeral Mass.

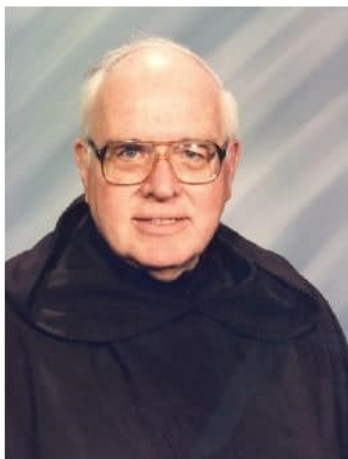
Father's frustration was that he loved sports so much, but due to issues with his feet, he couldn't excel at it. This

didn't keep him from always hanging around youth sports, even coaching it when necessary.

My thoughts on the man include that we first met working on a Cursillo team together. It seemed like it was either Fr Tim or Fr Michael O'Grady who worked the teams I was on, sometimes I got really lucky and had them both! Towards the end, Fr Tim could only help with confessions but before that, it was full-on with spiritual talks and everything. Just like everything he got involved with, he was fully into it and his great smile spilled over onto the team members and candidates over the weekend.

With the passing of so many clergy members in the Cursillo, it is really up to us lay people to pass on the Cursillo traditions and if it's nothing more than stories about our favorite clergy then so be it. Might I suggest that we all take turns posting one of our favorite stories to the Cursillo website at least monthly so that our newest Cursillistas can see why we are so driven by the Movement and want to keep it going. If I may end with my favorite story from the homily, Fr Tim enjoyed visiting the Gonzales clan for a round of poker and they would always take him so badly that he referred to the Matriarch and her group as Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves!!

De Colores Fr Tim! Enjoy your Fifth Day!



From his obituary:

Rev. Tiernan (Tim) O'Callaghan, O.CARM, was born to (the late) John Russell O'Callaghan and (the late) Nora Francis (Connolly) O'Callaghan on August 31, 1931, in Boston Massachusetts. His given name at baptism was John Russell. He is survived by his cousins Patricia Coleman, Marguerite Clifford, John Barrett and Rita Hussey.

John Russell attended Carmelite Junior Seminary in Hamilton, Massachusetts, and entered the Carmelite novitiate in New Baltimore, Pennsylvania, in 1949. He professed simple vows on August 30, 1950, taking the religious name of Tiernan. He attended Mount Carmel College in Niagara Falls, Ontario, and St. Bonaventure University in Olean, New York, earning a bachelor's degree in philosophy. He studied theology at the Catholic University of America in Washington, DC, for four years, and professed solemn vows with the Carmelites at

Whitefriars Hall on May 26, 1954. He was ordained a Carmelite priest on May 26, 1956, in Hamilton, Massachusetts. He continued further studies at the University of Houston in Houston, Texas; Spalding University in Louisville, Kentucky; and Seton Hall University in South Orange, New Jersey, where he earned a M.Div. in theology.

Father Tiernan's first assignment was teaching at Mount Carmel High School in Houston, Texas, from 1957 to 1960. He then moved to DeSales High School in Louisville, Kentucky, where he taught until 1971. His next assignment was teaching at Joliet Catholic High School in Joliet, Illinois, where he served from 1971 to 1976. From 1976 to 1989 he served at St. Thérèse Parish in Cresskill, New Jersey, first as associate pastor for four years and then as pastor for nine years. From 1989 to 2002 he served at St. Agnes Parish in Phoenix, Arizona, first as parochial vicar for one year and then as pastor for the following 12 years. In 2002 he retired to the Carmelite House in Phoenix, Arizona, where he remained until he moved into assisting living in 2018. He died as a member of the St. Agnes Carmelite Priory.

May he rest in peace.