



Fr. David John Farrugia O.P.

July 1, 1934 - April 1, 2025

Fr. David John Farrugia, OP, a Dominican friar of the Province of the Most Holy Name of Jesus, died peacefully in his sleep on April 1, 2025 in Benicia, CA, one day shy of his 65th anniversary of ordination as a Roman Catholic priest.

Fr. David was born July 1, 1934 to Anthony and Mary (Scicluna) Farrugia in Vittoriosa, Malta. After attending elementary school in Mosta, Malta, he entered the Archbishop's Minor Seminary in Floriana, Malta, where he completed his high school education. He was accepted at St. Albert the Great College, administered by the Dominican friars in Valetta, Malta, in 1950. Inspired by the example of the friars, he entered their novitiate in 1953 and made solemn profession on October 20, 1957, in Rabat, Malta. He was ordained on April 2, 1960, at St. John's Cathedral in Valletta, Malta, and began his priestly ministry. Fourteen months later, an agreement made between the priors provincial of Malta and the Province of the Most Holy Name of Jesus in California sent several Maltese friars to serve in the Western U.S., including Fr. David.

In Benicia and Kentfield, CA, the young priest was sent to work in the formation of lay brothers, then in 1965 he began the first of many assignments in parishes of the Holy Name province. He was an associate pastor at St. Dominic's in San Francisco, at St. Mary Magdalen's in Berkeley, St. Dominic's

in Benicia, St. Thomas Aquinas Cathedral in Reno, NV, and St. Dominic's parish in Los Angeles. He served as a chaplain to the Christian Brothers novitiate community at Mont LaSalle in the wine country. Twice he served in the Catholic campus ministry at the University of California, Riverside. He was popular and loved by both students and parishioners for his organizational skills and approachability.

In 1973 he became a U.S. citizen and three years later transfiliated from the Dominican province of Malta to the Dominican province of the Holy Name in the western U.S.

After a sabbatical year studying philosophy, theology and scripture at Notre Dame and in the Holy Land, Fr. David was named pastor of Our Lady of the Mountain parish in Ashland, OR, the first of several long and successful pastorates. He returned as pastor to St. Mary Magdalen church in Berkeley and finally at St. Dominic's in Benicia.

Within every community he served, many people counted him as a wise counselor and friend. Parish leaders at the last parish he served as pastor wrote to the prior provincial to plead that Fr. David be given a second term as pastor. "We want you to know what an amazing impact he has had on our church and school community...He is aware of challenges within some families and addresses them in a concerned and supportive manner. His humor, humility and kindness have touched so many."

After 52 years in active ministry, Fr. David retired to the Dominican community in Benicia, where he continued to serve as a confessor and confidante to many grateful individuals who were embraced in his welcoming heart.

A vigil will be held at St. Dominic Catholic Church, 475 East I Street, Benicia, CA, on Tuesday, April 8 at 7:30 PM. A funeral Mass will be held at the same

location Wednesday, April 9, at 10:30 AM. Burial will follow at St. Dominic's cemetery in Benicia. A memorial fund has been established to honor Fr. David. Gifts will support the education of Fr. David's Dominican brothers still in formation. Please donate online at <https://opwest.org/frdavidfarrugia>

Cemetery Details

St. Dominic's Cemetery

Hillcrest Avenue & East 5th Street
Benicia, CA 94510

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 8. 4:00 PM - 7:15 PM (PT)

St Dominic's Catholic Church
475 E I St
Benicia, CA 94510
(707) 747-7220

Prayer Vigil

APR 8. 7:30 PM - 8:30 PM (PT)

St Dominic's Catholic Church
475 E I St
Benicia, CA 94510
(707) 747-7220

Mass of Christian Burial

APR 9. 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM (PT)

St Dominic's Catholic Church
475 E I St
Benicia, CA 94510
(707) 747-7220

Live stream of the service: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sb7sq_O-CrA

Interment

APR 9. 11:30 AM - 12:00 PM (PT)

St. Dominic's Cemetery
Hillcrest Avenue & East 5th Street
Benicia, CA 94510

Tribute Wall

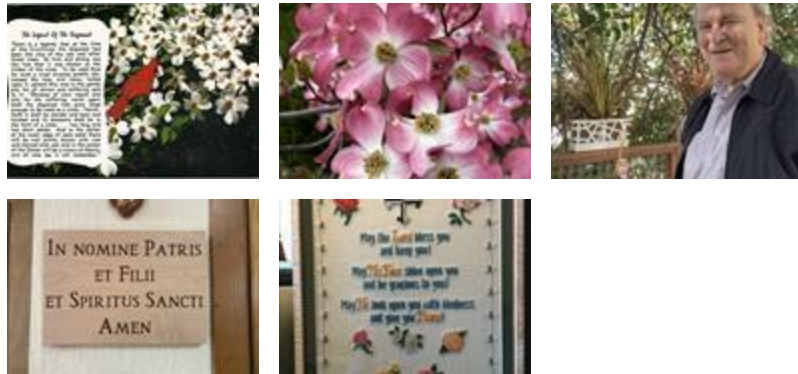
RO

“ *Father David - you are in Heaven to welcome our Holy Father home.* ”

Robert - April 21, 2025 at 04:37 AM

MH

“ *5 files added to the tribute wall* ”



Mary Hickey - April 20, 2025 at 12:44 AM

MH

“ *Happy Easter Father David- you are in our hearts!* ”



Mary Hickey - April 20, 2025 at 12:38 AM



“ 7 files added to the album *Father David*



Mary Hickey - April 11, 2025 at 11:41 PM



“ 7 files added to the album *Father David's Roses*



Mary Hickey - April 11, 2025 at 12:12 PM



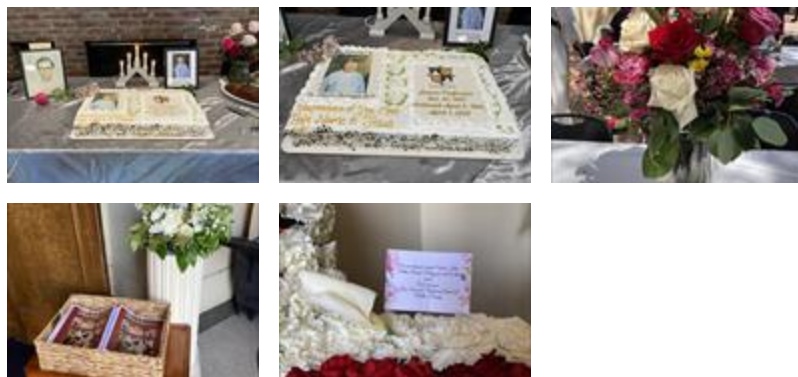
“ 12 files added to the album *Father David's Roses*



Mary Hickey - April 10, 2025 at 07:30 PM



“ 6 files added to the album *April 9, 2025*



Mary Hickey - April 10, 2025 at 07:19 PM



“ *Rachel McDonald lit a candle in memory of David Farrugia*



Rachel McDonald - April 08, 2025 at 09:37 PM

RM

“ Rachel McDonald sent a virtual gift in memory of David Farrugia



Rachel McDonald - April 08, 2025 at 09:37 PM

RM

“ Rachel McDonald sent a virtual gift in memory of David Farrugia



Rachel McDonald - April 08, 2025 at 09:37 PM

RM

“ Rachel McDonald sent a virtual gift in memory of David Farrugia



Rachel McDonald - April 08, 2025 at 09:36 PM

RM

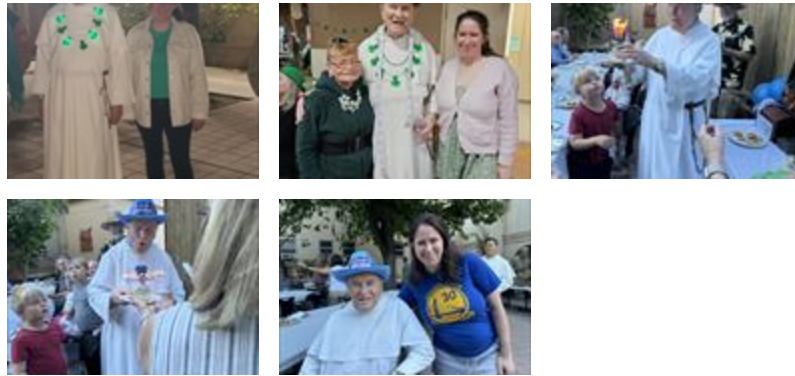
“ Rachel McDonald sent a virtual gift in memory of David Farrugia



Rachel McDonald - April 08, 2025 at 09:35 PM

RM

“ Thank you FR. David for all the laughs and memories you brought to St. Dominic. You will be missed.



Rachel McDonald - April 08, 2025 at 09:33 PM

RM

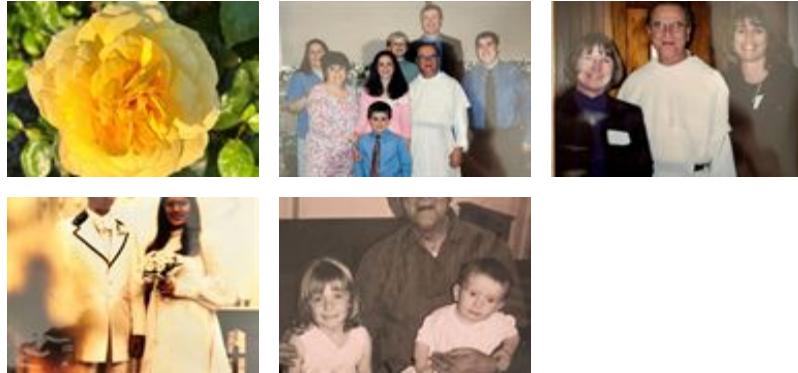
“ Thank you FR. David for all the laughs and memories you brought to St. Dominic. We will miss you.



Rachel McDonald - April 08, 2025 at 08:40 PM



“ 18 files added to the album Life Tributes



Passalacqua Funeral Chapel - April 08, 2025 at 05:16 PM

TH

“ The Hands' planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Fr. David John Farrugia O.P..

The Hands' - April 08, 2025 at 03:52 PM

TH

“ The Hands' purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Fr. David John Farrugia O.P..



The Hands' - April 08, 2025 at 03:52 PM



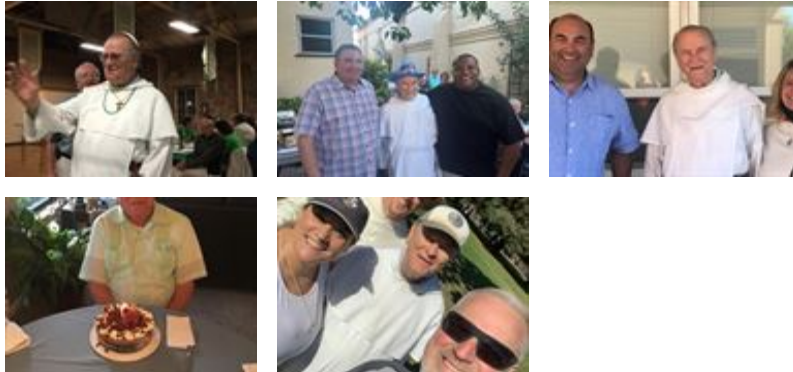
“ 2 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Passalacqua Funeral Chapel - April 08, 2025 at 12:42 PM



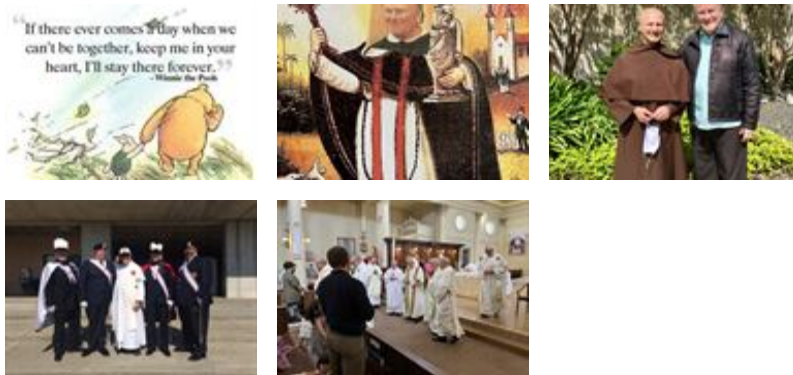
“ 6 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Passalacqua Funeral Chapel - April 07, 2025 at 04:25 PM



“ 105 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Passalacqua Funeral Chapel - April 07, 2025 at 02:28 PM

WC

“ *What a pleasure and honor to have Fr. David as our pastor and friend here at St. Dominic’s. His sense of humor, spirituality and loving care will always be remembered. May he find his well deserved reward.*

Bill & Bernadette Cambra

William Cambra - April 06, 2025 at 10:16 PM



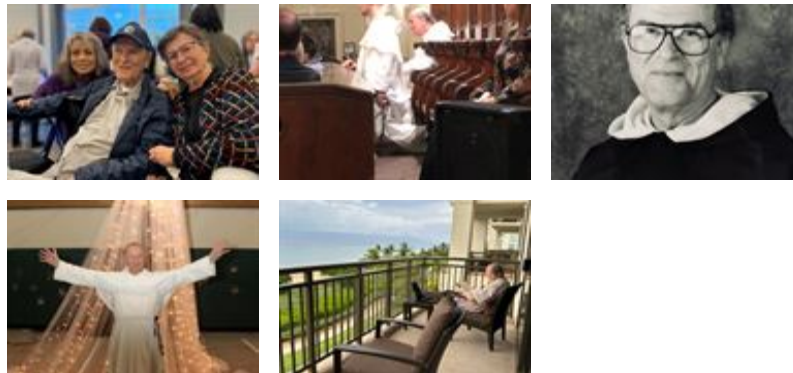
“ *2 files added to the album Life Tributes*



Passalacqua Funeral Chapel - April 04, 2025 at 05:03 PM



“ *7 files added to the album Life Tributes*



Passalacqua Funeral Chapel - April 04, 2025 at 03:36 PM

JE

Whoever wrote the obituary captured the essence of Father David with the description “ ... approachability”. What a great priest! John and Judy.

john Elizalde - April 05, 2025 at 06:37 PM

DW

“*Fr. David was a spiritual guide for me, and ever since I first met him when I was in 3rd (maybe 4th?) grade here at St. Dominic's school back in 1959-60, Fr. David always showed God's love through his warm, happy demeanor. He was an approachable shepherd of God's people. He holds a place in my heart. Diane Curran Warring*

Diane C Warring - April 04, 2025 at 03:18 PM

JT

“ Now something about my dearest uncle John k/a Fr David .
I am Doris Fr David's niece. I am the only one left from his side. He was my mother's youngest brother. When he became a priest, he immediately went to America. I wasn't born yet. He came back to Malta when I was 3 years old on the passing of his father, my grandfather. I grew up very proud of my uncle and every time he came to visit for his holidays we used to be so excited and prepared everything for his staying with us. His sence of humour together with that of my father was the cherry on the cake. We were always laughing about something he says. He used to tease me alot. And it was always hard for us on his departure. No one from my family ever had the chance to visit him except for my daughter and her husband way back in November 2019 and my husband Raymond and I came last November. My uncle was over the moon and in seventh heaven to know we were coming to visit. He told everyone about it. I guess some of you parishioners present here today have known about it too. We were very pleased to have met some of you. There's so much to say about him but I humbly say he was unique. I thank Fr. Andy and all the Dominican community for all their support and caring and all of those who ever crossed paths with my uncle and showed him love and respect.

God bless you all

Doris

Joe Talken - April 04, 2025 at 12:09 PM