



Fr. Felix Francis Cassidy O.P.

June 3, 1927 - November 13, 2015

Fr. Felix Francis Edward Cassidy, OP died peacefully on Friday, November 13, 2015. Fr. Felix was born and raised in San Francisco's Pacific Heights on June 3, 1927. He was baptized at St. Dominic's Church in San Francisco. He attended St. Ignatius Prep. He was a World War II veteran, joining the Merchant Marine at the age of 17, serving from 1945-46. Throughout his life in the Dominican Order, Fr. Felix had various assignments; however, he would spend most of his life at his beloved St. Dominic's Church & Priory. Fr. Felix was clothed in the Dominican habit on August 14, 1948 in Ross, CA, and was ordained a priest on June 11, 1954 at St. Mary's Cathedral in San Francisco.

His parents, Edward George Cassidy and Mildred Mary Callan, christened him "Francis," but the Dominican Order would give him the name "Felix." It was a most appropriate name because it means "Happy" and that is how we would best describe him. His brothers and most others called him "Fr. Cas" or just plain "Cas."

Even though it was not unexpected, after a long struggle with declining health, his death was a jolt to us, particularly to the contemporary generation of his confreres who could not imagine the Western Dominican Province without him. His was a defining presence in our lives. We were never unaware that there was a saint among us. With his distinctive voice and humor, he was our own local St. Joseph of Cupertino. He lived life to its fullness, displaying his

child-like simplicity and playfulness—yet, always remaining a model of Christian virtue, like the great saints of old.

Fr. Felix was well-known in San Francisco. Although he served in many other assignments, including Holy Rosary Church (Antioch, CA), St. Vincent's Church (Vallejo, CA), Holy Rosary Church (Portland, OR), Kentfield, CA (as Prior), in the missions in Chiapas (Altamirano, MX), and as Rector and Superior at St. Thomas Aquinas Cathedral (Reno, NV), St. Dominic's Church and the Shrine of St. Jude were his home. He was devoted to Our Blessed Lady, to his beloved St. Jude, to his brothers, to the pilgrims at the Shrine, and to the faithful of St. Dominic's Church and the city. He was the confessor and spiritual adviser to many souls. He lifted the burdens of many people who came to him over the decades, seeking him out to pour their troubles upon him and to hear his encouraging words.

Fr. Felix will be dearly missed by his family, Dominican brothers, the parishioners of St. Dominic's Church, the faithful of San Francisco and all those whom he has touched along the way. May he rest in peace.

To honor the memory of Fr. Felix, donations to "opwest.org/frfelixmemorial" will support the education of future priests and brothers of the Western Dominican Province.

On Thursday, November 19th, at St. Dominic's Church, San Francisco, Visitation will begin at 6:30 pm followed by Vigil Services at 7:30 pm. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Friday, November 20th, at St. Dominic's Church, San Francisco at 10:00 am, followed by burial at St. Dominic's Cemetery in Benicia, CA at 2:00 pm.

Tribute Wall



“ *Fr. Felix Francis Cassidy O.P.*

November 29, 2022 at 08:20 PM

LK

“ to the family and friends of fr cassidy: my name is lisa holmes kuhn and i, too, grew up in s.f., and fr cassidy told me, if i have it correctly, that i went to the then called madison elementary school with his niece, nancy. at the time, i was not a catholic, but in january of 1985, much to my amazement(and chagrin!!) i was called by the holy spirit to Believe in God, to go (again) to rome, AND to become a catholic. i had brought up marginally as an episcopalian (aren't they all marginal, lol!) and cdn't understand why i shd convert. but though i knew nothing about conversion experiences, i KNEW it was the holy spirit directing me. so my 1st -and abiding - experience of god was of LOVE. i did go to rome, my favorite city, went to st peter's, arms crossed...nothing. i was to leave early the next day. yet i felt i HAD to return there, and found myself on my knees with tears streaming down my face. the holy spirit had won!

i met some wonderful priests who each played a role in my journey to being rec'd into the church on sept 10, the triumph of the cross, at st dominic's. i went to an inquirer's class there led by then br xavier, now fr xavier. there i met my sponser, then bonnie hitchcock, now sr lucy, op. AND i met fr cassidy!

i was participating in the liturgy of the hours, not yet a catholic, and across from me i saw a priest with the most beatific smile beaming towards me. i looked behind me, wondering whom he knew...and yet he was smiling - radiating! - at me!

the role he played in my reception into the church, and support thereafter, was of love and prayer and joy! when i saw him i often brought chocolates or cakes, and he always said it wd give him lots of energy to do what he wanted to do! sadly, i became progressively disabled with a congenital illness (and others) and, not being able to afford health insurance by the time i cd no longer work (i had even taught kindergarten at st dominic's, but my field was really hs english) in 1998, i was forced to move, alone but with my pets, to france where i cd get health care. i only went back a few times, the last time 10 years ago. i often tried to call fr cassidy but he moved like greased lightning, and it was hard to get ahold of him! of course i also wrote. - and the main thing he ALWAYS said to me was, 'you know i always pray for you at the 5 o'clock!' this gave me

great comfort over the years, esp as i've grown more ill and now stuck in bed.

i see that someone at the church wrote that he was a saint. i was surprised they said this...but only because i thought this was my secret, lol! i KNEW he was a saint, IS a saint. and yes, he WAS simple in his manner, but he was nobody's fool. he was very bright and intuitive. in some ways he reminds me of our current pope. i am so sad i did not get to speak to him this last year, but he did know i was trying, and i wd leave messages. and i know that now, in heaven, he still hears me, and still prays for me. i have no doubt he is being regaled with exquisite joy in heaven, as he so richly deserves. but i send my deep condolences to his family and other friends because i know how much he is missed.

i got an email today from my good friend bishop pj mc grath, now of san jose, and he wrote that 'felix was a lovely man'. and so he was. i don't have really any friends or family in the bay area now, but when i die i will return to st. dominic's where i have a niche. i would be grateful if any of you, passing my niche, would say a quick prayer for me.

god bless you all, lisa

lisa holmes kuhn - November 27, 2015 at 12:07 AM