



Fr. Michael Buckley OCD

November 5, 1920 - December 22, 2016

Fr. Michael Buckley, OCD, died on Thursday, December 22, at the Carmelite House of Prayer in Oakville (Napa Valley) after a brief illness. He was 96.

Fr. Michael was born on November 5, 1920, at Castleisland, County Kerry, Ireland.

His birth and very early life were affected by the conflict between the British authorities and Irish fighters for independence.

He entered the novitiate of the Discalced Carmelite priests and brothers at Loughrea, County Galway, in 1939 and made his profession of religious vows the following year. From there he went to Dublin, where he completed his philosophy and theology studies and was ordained a priest in 1947.

After ordination to the priesthood, he was sent to Rome for further studies. He earned an advanced degree in Sacred Scripture (and also played soccer with Karol Wojtyla, who later became Pope John Paul II).

Returning to Dublin, he taught sacred languages and Bible to students for the priesthood. After a while he was sent to India, where for eleven years he taught Sacred Scripture at Always Seminary.

Again returning to Ireland, after a short period he was sent to the United

States, where he ministered in California. He was elected Provincial Superior of the Anglo-Irish Province in 1978. (It was said that the sun never set on the Anglo-Irish Province, because it had communities and members all over the world.)

After serving from Dublin for one term in this office, he came back to California, where he also served as Provincial Superior, for two terms, from 1984 until 1990. After a sabbatical in the Holy Land, he was assigned to the Carmelite novitiate house in San José and appointed Provincial Delegate for the Secular (Third) Order. He held that position for eleven years, from 1991 until 2002. Several years into that period, he moved from San José to the Carmelite House of Prayer in Oakville.

Fr. Michael spent the last twenty years of his life at Oakville. He was pleased that he was able to spend his final days at home at the House of Prayer. His life had been one of missionary, Biblical professor, writer, teacher, counselor, friend, golfer, rugby fan, and religious superior and director. In his later years he appeared weak in body, but his mind remained sharp and insightful and interested and his heart was caring and positive and strong. This is part of his legacy to many people, not the least of whom are his fellow Carmelite priests and brothers.

There will be a Vigil/Rosary for him at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 28, at Claffey and Rota Funeral Home in Napa. A funeral Mass will be celebrated on Thursday, December 29, at 10:30 a.m. at St. Apollinaris Church in Napa. Burial will follow that afternoon at 2:00 at Mount St. Joseph, Carmelite Novitiate, in San José.

Previous Events

Rosary

DEC **28**. 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM (PT)

Claffey and Rota Funeral Home
1975 Main Street
Napa, CA 94559
(707) 224-5210
services@claffeyandrota.com
<http://www.claffeyandrota.com>

Mass

DEC **29**. 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM (PT)

St. Apollinaris Catholic Church
3700 Lassen St
Napa, CA 94558
(707) 257-2555

Tribute Wall



“ *Fr. Michael Buckley OCD*

September 29, 2022 at 04:54 PM



“ *Fr. Michael Buckley OCD*

September 29, 2022 at 02:55 PM



“ *"Well done, my good and faithful servant. Come, share your Master's joy. Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world."
Matthew 25*

With gratitude for your kindness over the years, and for your life of dedicated priestly service to Christ and His Church.

Requiescat in Pace Aeternam.

Joseph Leach, San Francisco

Joseph G Leach - December 27, 2016 at 11:42 PM



Fr. Michael Buckley, ocd was very, inspiring, and caring as one of our retreat guides in Oakville each autumn at the o.c.d.s. retreats, first with the Carmelite community in Berkeley and later with the Carmelite community of Santa Clara. He helped me greatly. Also, he was the spiritual director for the o.c.d.s. community in San Francisco at Christo Rey where I was also active. Since Fr. Michael and I were both artists, we spoke the same language one-on-one, which was very healing to me and I will be forever thankful. Susanna Maria Ax, ocds, Santa Clara Infant Jesus Community.

Susanna Maria Ax, ocds - June 20, 2017 at 02:06 PM