



**TERTIUS ORDO REGULARIS SANCTI FRANCISCI
SECRETARIUS GENERALIS**

September 26, 2014

Prot. N° 65/2014

**Subject: Death notice of Fr. Joan Riera Ferrer, TOR
Immaculate Conception Province, Spain**

It is with deep regret that we announce the death of our brother



FR. JOAN RIERA FERRER, TOR

Fr. Joan Riera Ferrer, TOR, died of heart failure at the age of 90, on September 12, 2014, at La Porciúncola (Mallorca). Fr. Joan Riera was born in Artà, on June 28, 1924, the son of Miquel Riera Esteva († 28/10/1975) and Angela Ferrer March († 11 /7/1943). He had six brothers.

He entered La Porciúncola where he completed the studies in humanities, attending the Beato Ramon Llull High School in Inca and La Porciúncola. He received the Franciscan habit of the Third Order on July 20, 1941. After a year of novitiate he professed his vows in Artà (Mallorca) on August 7, 1942. He studied philosophy at La Porciúncola and there he professed his Solemn Vows, on August 13, 1947. In the four-year period of the theological



studies, he attended two years at La Porciúncula and two at the Gregorian University of Rome, where he was ordained as a priest on November 28, 1948, by Bishop Alfonso Carinci.

After finishing his theological studies, in 1949, he was sent to Quintanar de la Orden (Toledo) as tutor and professor at the Minor Seminary of Quintanar. In 1952 he was transferred to La Porciúncula as professor of literature and music director of the novitiate. In 1953 he was moved to the USA, and in the meanwhile he was waiting for the visa for USA, he spent a few months at St. Francisco Parish in Madrid. His first residence was in Newark, New Jersey, where he remained from 1953 to 1961. From 1961 to 1967 he was responsible for the pastoral service at St. José, Bronx. In 1967 he was transferred to Texas, as superior and pastor at Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in Temple. After three years, in 1970 he went back again to Newark and served as administrator of the fraternity.

During the Province Chapter in 1981, Fr. Joan Riera was sent to Elizabeth, New Jersey, as superior and parish priest at Immaculate Heart of Mary; during the Chapter in 1985 he was assigned to St. Benedict Parish in New York as vicar. In the month of May, 1991, he was reconfirmed vicar of the fraternity at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish until 1997, when he continued as vicar and administrator of the unified fraternity of Newark and Elizabeth, in New Jersey. On May, 1998, Fr. Joan Riera was nominated parish priest at Immaculate Heart of Mary, in Newark. In 2001 he returned to Spain and he was assigned to the friary of St. Francisco in Palma as administrator of the fraternity until the Chapter in 2005; after he remaining in the same fraternity until 2013.

Between 2012 and 2013, he had various hip fractures and began to have different health problems like heart and renal failure, remaining several times in infirmary in convalescence; during the Chapter in 2013, he was definitively assigned at La Porciúncula.

After being hospitalized a few weeks at the clinic in Palma, he returned to La Porciúncula, where he was called by Sister Death on the morning of Friday, September 12, 2014. The funeral rites were conducted at the Son Valentí mortuary and the Funeral Mass was celebrated on Monday, September 15, at 8:00 p.m. at La Porciúncula, by the Minister Provincial, Fr. Jaume Puigserver, surrounded by friends and friars. He was interred in the Franciscan Chapel in the Palma de Mallorca Cemetery on September 16.

May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, rest in peace.

Please offer the suffrages for the repose of his soul according to articles 61-67 of the *General Statutes*.

Faternally,



fra Danijel Gornik

Fr. Danijel Gornik, TOR
Secretary General