

Announcing the entry into Eternal life of Fr Manuel of the Mother of God, ocd

Fr Manuel Schembri



A member of the Religious family of Discalced (Teresian) Carmelite brothers for almost 40 years, 31 of them as a priest, Fr Manuel Schembri was born in Birkirkara.

At 5 years of age, he migrated with his family to Australia for a few years. In Malta he felt the call to join the Discalced Carmelite Order. He studied at INSERM (Malta) and successfully completed a course on Spiritual Theology at the Teresianum - The International College of the Order in Rome. Within the Province he was granted care of the Novices, and then Postulants and also the Professed Members of the Convent in Cospicua.

In 1990 he was asked to undertake a mission in Canada: in Lucan and London. There he worked with a number of Secular Discalced Carmelite Communities in the area. In 1991 he was appointed Administrator at Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Church in Wheatly. On June 27, 1993 he was installed as Pastor of St Andrew's Parish in London, Ontario, and in 1994 he was appointed Superior of the Parish. He went back to Malta in 1996 and entered the community of Birkirkara. Shortly afterward he was chosen Prior of that same community.

In November of 2008, he returned to Canada and was appointed Associate Pastor of Our Lady of Fatima Shrine in Scarborough. He returned to Malta in 2009 and was elected Provincial in 2010. Canada was very fortunate to have him attend the 7th OCDS Congress in 2015 via Skype.

For eight full years he led the Maltese Province as Provincial during the most delicate moment in the history of the Province. Finally at the Provincial Chapter (2017), despite his ill health, he agreed to serve as Parish Priest at Ta' Xbiex. From his room in the House of Clergy and from a bed at Mater Dei Hospital, he passed recent months hoping to recover his health, struggling, and remaining focused on what he loved doing most: writing about the history and spirituality of the Discalced Carmel!

- Born in Birkirkara on 22 January, 1961
- Entered Teresian Carmel in September 1977
 - Ordained priest 11 July 1986
- Joined the Lord in eternal life on 9 October 2018

On Thursday, 11 October, after a half-day, the remains were transported from Mater Dei Hospital to the parish church in Ta' Xbiex [St. John of the Cross] where parishioners were permitted to show their respect. There was a moment of prayer and community Mass at 6:00 pm. On Friday, 12 October at 9:00 am, the remains were transported from the Church of Ta' Xbiex to the Sanctuary of St Theresa of the Child Jesus, Birkirkara, with Community High Mass at 9:30am.

“Lord grant him eternal rest and happiness. Amen.”

