



**REV. BENEDICTO  
ORTIZ**

The Rev. Benedicto Ortiz, 80, passed away peacefully on Saturday, May 14, 2011, in San Juan, Texas. Father Ortiz was born in Patillas, Puerto Rico on Sept. 1, 1930.

Father Ortiz accepted the call to serve God and the Roman Catholic Church, and following seminary formation at St. Ildefonso Minor Seminary in San Juan,

Puerto Rico, and St. Thomas Aquinas Major Seminary in the Dominican Republic, he was ordained to the priesthood on April 13, 1957, in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Higinio and Herminia Ortiz and his sister, Edicta Cruz.

He is survived by several nieces and nephews.

Among his priestly duties before coming to the Rio Grande Valley was the chaplaincy of the Police Department of Brooklyn, New York.

During his ministry in the Diocese of Brownsville, Father Ortiz served in the city of Brownsville as pastor of Good Shepherd and Our Lady of Guadalupe. He also served at Our Lady of Sorrows in McAllen; St. Anthony's in Harlingen; St. Anne's in Pharr; Holy Spirit in Progreso; San Martin de Porres in Weslaco; and as Chaplain at Knapp Medical Center in Weslaco.

Father Ortiz is remembered for his caring and faith-filled ministry. His preaching brought many the joy of the Holy Spirit and the salvation of Jesus Christ. Father had a special place in his heart for the residents of Casa Oscar Romero, attending to the mothers there with extra care on their important days, especially Mother's Day. He welcomed the immigrants from Central America with the love of Jesus Christ, offering food and shelter to those in need. He lived the Gospel he preached.

Serving as pallbearers will be his fellow priests, Fr. Francisco Acosta, Msgr. Bert Diaz, Fr. Mario Castro, Fr. Jorge Gonzalez, Fr. Alfonso Guevara, and Fr. Luis Fernando Sanchez.

Visitation will be held Tuesday, May 17, from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church, 1200 Lincoln St., Brownsville, Texas. The Holy Rosary will be prayed at 7 p.m.

Funeral Mass will be celebrated on Wednesday, May 18, at 10 a.m., with Most Rev. Daniel E. Flores, bishop of

Brownsville, presiding.

Burial will follow at Buena Vista Burial Park.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Bishop's Annual Diocesan Appeal in Memory of Rev. Benedicto Ortiz.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to Funeraria Del Angel Buena Vista, Cemetery and Mausoleum, 125 McDavitt Blvd., Brownsville, TX 78521 (956) 541-5400. Dignity Memorial Provider.