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Fr Patrick J. Mendola

BIRTH	21 Dec 1948 Kenmore, Erie County, New York, USA
DEATH	18 May 1995 (aged 46) Berkeley, Alameda County, California, USA
BURIAL	Saint Stanislaus Roman Catholic Cemetery Cheektowaga, Erie County, New York, USA Add to Map
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Fr. Patrick Mendola, OFM Conv., son of Joseph and Jennie (Miranda) Mendola, was born in Buffalo, NY on December 21, 1948. He was raised in Kenmore, NY where he attended St. Andrew Parochial School. He received his secondary education at Cardinal O'Hara High School, graduating in 1966. Having met the Franciscan Friars in high school, Fr. Patrick and his identical twin brother Fr. Michael joined the Community, and began his novitiate at St. Joseph Cupertino Friary in Ellicott City, MD. He professed his temporary vows there on August 15, 1967. Fr. Patrick then attended St. Hyacinth College and Seminary, Granby, MA, professing his solemn vows on August 15, 1970 and receiving a bachelor's degree in philosophy in 1971. Following an apostolic year at Archbishop Curly High School, Baltimore, MD, he studied theology at St. Anthony-on-Hudson, Rensselaer, NY from 1972-76. He was ordained to the priesthood at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Albany, NY, on May 15, 1976 by Bishop Edwin Broderick. Fr. Patrick went on to earn a master's degree in Pastoral Counseling from Emmanuel College in Boston, MA in 1980 and a master's degree in Applied Theology from the Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, CA. in 1995.

Throughout his ministry Fr. Patrick served the needs of young people. From 1976-80 he was Director of Guidance and Counseling and teacher at St. Francis High School, Athol Springs, NY. In 1981 Fr. Patrick helped give birth to a new ministry to troubled youth located on Cumberland Avenue in South Buffalo. Fr. Patrick founded the Franciscan Center in 1981 and served as Executive Director of the Center until 1990. He also served as Guardian of St. Joseph, Foster Parent, Friary. At times he also served as counselor at Mercy High School, Buffalo, NY and Chaplain at the Baker Homes, Lackawanna, NY. From 1990-91 Fr. Patrick pursued a sabbatical year at the Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, CA. He was then appointed the first Franciscan pastor of St. Philip Benizi Parish in Jonesboro, GA where he served until the end of his life. Fr. Patrick became ill in California where he was attending his commencement ceremonies on May 17, 1995. He died the day after receiving his degree. He was in the 47th year of his life, the 28th of profession, and the 20th of priesthood. A wake was observed on Sunday, May 21, 1995 and a Memorial Mass was celebrated on Monday, May 22 at St. Philip Benizi Parish in Jonesboro, GA. The tremendous response of parishioners testified to the great love the people of St. Philip's had for Fr. Patrick. The same outpouring of love and support was also witnessed in Kenmore, NY during visiting hours at the funeral home and the Funeral Mass at St. Andrew Church on Wednesday, May 24. Fr. Patrick's remains were buried in the Friar's Plot of St. Stanislaus Cemetery in Buffalo, NY. Fr. Patrick will always be remembered for his sense of humor, gentleness, and enthusiasm for life. He had a special place in his heart for those in need, especially the young. He enjoyed being active and toying with the latest technological devices on the market. By far, Fr. Patrick's greatest gifts were found in the love he demonstrated toward all, and his ability to work with others, enabling them to share their gifts and talents for the greater good of all.

Gravesite Details

Conventual Franciscan Priest and burred with his twin brother Michael.