

**Provincial Office
Halston Street, Dublin**

Friday, 22nd December 2023

I regret to announce that our brother, Peter Rodgers, following a long illness, died at 5.00 a.m. this morning, Friday, 22nd December 2023, at St Francis Hospice, Blanchardstown, Dublin. We ask the good Lord to welcome him into his Kingdom, reward him for the service he has given him, his Church and the Capuchin Order over a lifetime. May he rest in Peace.

Peter was born on 19th August 1944 and his parents, Peter and Joanna (nee O'Sullivan) Rodgers had him baptised Peter, Gerard, in the local parish church. He lived his childhood in Phibsborough, in Dublin's North Inner City, not far from Church Street friary, where in his youth he spent many a happy hour singing in the choir.

Following his schooling in the Irish-speaking Colaiste Mhuire, CBS, Parnell Square, he entered the Capuchin novitiate in Kilkenny on the 3rd of October, 1962, and was temporarily professed there on the 4th of October, 1963. He lived in St Bonaventure's friary, O'Neill-Crowley Cross (Victoria Cross), Cork, during his studies at UCC from 1963 till 1967, being awarded a BA in 1966 and an MA the following year. He made perpetual profession on the 4th of October 1966.

In 1967, Peter was sent by his superiors to study theology at Strasbourg, Alsace, France, for six years, after which he obtained an L.S.T. in 1973. Midway through his continental studies, he returned to Ireland for his ordination to the priesthood on the 5th of July 1970 in Dublin. Immediately after his return to Ireland in August 1973, Peter was appointed Vicar of St Bonaventure's, Cork and the Director of Students. Continuing being Director of Students, he became Guardian in the same friary from 1976 to 1979. This was followed by his being made Guardian and Rector of Rochestown College from 1979 to 1985, during which time he obtained a H.Dip in Education.

He was elected to the Definitory at five successive Provincial Chapters between 1985 and 1998. From 1985 to 1988 he was Mission Secretary and, also, Editor of the Provincial Bulletin. In 1988 he was appointed the Parish Priest of Gurrabraher in Cork city, where he was also Guardian until 1994. Following his election as Provincial Vicar in 1994, he spent the next four years in

Rochestown. Then, from 1998 till 2001, as Provincial Vicar and Mission Secretary, again, he returned to Dublin and Halston Street.

He was elected Provincial of the Irish Province on the 26th of June 2001 and re-elected on the 29th June 2004, during which time he continued to live in Halston Street. After over thirty years of unceasing busyness and bearing heavy responsibilities, and suffering a serious illness, there was to be no let up for Peter. At the 83rd General Chapter of the Order held in Rome in 2006, he was elected Definitor General for six years with all the responsibilities that entailed for most of the English-speaking friars around the world and much else. When he wasn't on the move between continents his base during these years was the General Curia at 70 Via Piemonte, Rome.

On his return from Italy in 2012, there was still no let up for Peter, he accepted the appointment as Secretary General of the Conference of Religious of Ireland on the eve of its amalgamation with the Irish Missionary Union. At the Provincial Chapter of 2016, he was elected once more to the Provincial Council and appointed Guardian of Church Street friary, as well as to the Chairmanships of the Board of the Day Centre in Bow Street and the Provincial Finance Committee.

Finally, in retirement, the last few years of his life have been marked by several bouts of serious illness, which Peter bore valiantly. Well-endowed with many gifts, Peter, the Capuchin friar, made maximum use of them in the service of Christ working in administration and in the pastoral field, giving retreats and preaching, and journeying with his fellow friars in the Franciscan way through this life to the Father's House. May the Master reward him for the good he has accomplished on this earth and in the end for his faithful *l'attente de Dieu*. Amen.

In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever and ever.

Psalm 22.6