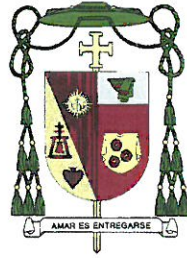


DIocese OF SAN BERNARDINO



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

January 18, 2019

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Greetings of Peace!

It saddens me to inform you of the death of Fr. Patricio Guillen-Santoyo, a retired and beloved priest of our Diocese, who was called to his eternal rest on January 15, 2019. Fr. Patricio had been residing at Pacifica Senior Living in Ontario, and for some months had been in failing health. He died surrounded by his two surviving siblings, Henry and Maria Guillen and longtime care giver, David Centeno. It is our prayer that he may now rejoice in the great Epiphany.

Patricio Guillen-Santoyo was born February 16, 1929 in Bellflower, California, the eighth child of ten to Patricio Guillen and Juana Santoyo, who had immigrated to the United States at the turn of the 20th Century. He was baptized Catholic at St. Bernard Church, Bellflower.

The Guillen family, one of thousands of migrant Mexican American farm working families, moved to Chino in 1934 where Patricio attended elementary school and high school, graduating from Chino High School in 1948. In the fall of that year he enrolled in La Verne College, studying modern languages, with the intention of majoring in the field of Education. At the end of two years, he applied for admittance to St. Francis Minor Seminary, in El Cajon, California, completing his seminary training and acquiring a BA at Immaculate Heart Seminary, San Diego 1951-57. He was ordained priest for the Diocese of San Diego, March 19, 1957 at St. Joseph Cathedral, by Most Reverend Charles Francis Buddy.

His first assignment was as Assistant Pastor at St. Anne's, San Diego, after which from 1958-1962 he was Assistant Pastor at St. Edwards, Corona. He served as Chaplain to the California Rehabilitation Center for two years and was professor at Immaculate Heart Seminary for one year. From 1965-68 he pursued Graduate Studies in Rome. Returning to the Diocese of San Diego, he was appointed Administrator of San Salvador Parish, Colton for one year and in residence at St. Joseph Cathedral. From 1969-70 he was Director of Ethnic Affairs for San Diego and Imperial Counties. He was Pastor of Our Lady of Guadalupe Shrine, Riverside, 1970-71, of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Ontario 1971-75, and at St. Edward, Corona 1975-81. Fr. Patricio was incardinated into the newly established Diocese of San Bernardino and while Pastor at St. Edward was appointed Director of Hispanic Evangelization. From 1981 to 1986 he was full time Director of the Office of Hispanic Evangelization - establishing a school of ministry for lay formation and leadership.

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Fr. Patricio continued to work zealously with Hispanic Groups, supporting the campesinos, under Cesar Chavez and founding of PADRES (the National Association of Chicano Priests) and the Libreria Del Pueblo, Inc. Ministry with Hispanics in the Comunidades Ecclesiales de Base was where Fr. Patricio's heart was. He was a source of encouragement and inspiration, his insight and judgment coming from a theology deeply rooted in Gospel values. He worked tirelessly for the betterment of the disadvantaged, for the socially and spiritually deprived. In his retirement, Fr. Patricio was happy to supply in the parishes near to his Assisted Living Facility. Celebrating Mass was always the high point of his day. He enjoyed visits from his seminary classmates and brother priests and availed of any opportunity to join our Presbyterate for retreats, convocations, celebrations and Diocesan events. Fr. Patricio will be missed by me and by all who came to know him during his 60+ years of priesthood. Behold (indeed) a great priest!

A Vigil Service will be held at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, 5048 D Street, Chino, Sunday, January 27, 2019, Viewing from 3:00 PM – 9:00 PM with Rosary at 7:00 PM. I will celebrate the funeral Mass for Fr. Patricio Guillen-Santoyo, Monday, January 28, 2019, 10:00 AM, at Queen of Angels Church, 4824 Jones Avenue, Riverside. Rite of Christian Burial will be at Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Cemetery, 3510 Washington Street, Colton, after the Mass, at 1:00 PM, with reception at Montecito following interment.

Let us unite in prayer for the eternal rest of Fr. Patricio!

Fraternally in Christ,



Most Rev. Gerald R. Barnes.
Bishop of the Diocese of San Bernardino

GRB:elp