

Convictions

Français

April - June 2006, No. 4

In Memoriam

Rev. Fr. Carl Pulvermacher O.F.M. Cap. (1926-2006)

From the Holy Family Chapel bulletin, Melbourne, Florida



Independent traditional Capuchin priest, Fr. Carl Pulvermacher, passed into eternity on May 29, the feast of St. Mary Magdalen dei Pazzi in Dickinson, Texas. He'd been a priest for 54 years, the last 30 with the SSPX.

Born to a Catholic family of nine children in Wisconsin, he followed two of his older brothers into the Capuchin order in 1944. He attended Saint Anthony's Seminary of the Capuchin Province of Saint Joseph to which the Venerable Father Solanus Casey also belonged and whom Father Carl had the opportunity to meet during the 1940's. He was ordained to the priesthood in 1952. In 1965, Father Carl was assigned to the mission founded by Jesuits in the late 1880's at the Crow Indian Reservation in Montana. He worked with the Crow and Northern Cheyenne Indians in the towns of Ashland and Saint Xavier.

When the Novus Ordo Missae was implemented, Father Carl said it, albeit begrudgingly, as he could not understand why the Mass had to be changed. Nevertheless, he continued to privately offer the Mass of his Ordination. Then his superiors told him that either he *"will be fired or you will resign"* as he was not making the changes in the new liturgy quickly enough. So in 1970 he was sent back to Saint Anthony's Seminary. He remained there until October of 1972 when he was transferred to Australia. During his tour of duty down-under, Father made the acquaintance of some traditional Catholics who wanted the Tridentine Mass and he obliged them at clandestine home Masses. While in Australia, Father was able to make the acquaintance of Archbishop Lefebvre in Sydney in 1974. In December of 1975, Father Carl was summoned by the convened forces of Father Provincial (similar to the District Superior), Father Guardian (of the Monastery), as well as the pastor of the parish which he was servicing! At this Modernist Inquisition, Father Carl was served an ultimatum: stop saying the Tridentine Mass or leave. Father chose to leave and kept saying the Tridentine Mass. It was not a light decision to make considering after over 30 years on the order! But leave he did in January of 1976, and while he was at it, he made a trip around the world on the way to his new destination. From Australia he went to Singapore, Bombay, Athens, Assisi, Rome, Ecône (where he met the Archbishop again), Lyons, Lourdes, Ars, Paris, London, New York City, and then Wisconsin to visit his parents. There he met the Archbishop a third time, as well as Fr. Hector Bolduc and it was then that he decided to assist Fr. Bolduc with the work of the United States District. At that time, from Our Lady Queen of Angels in Dickinson, Texas, the entire United State was serviced mainly by Fathers Bolduc and Carl. They often spent two weeks on the road servicing the various chapels before returning home. Father said that it could be disheartening during those years, since every time a new priest was ordained, another priest from the District would leave or defect, thereby neutralizing the hopeful additional number of priests to assist with the work, but *"you had to keep plugging away."* Among his traditional priest friends, Father counted

Malachi Martin who would use his profile in the novel, Windswept House, to help build the fictitious character, Father Guttmacher.

Late in 1977, Father Carl was instrumental in founding The Angelus magazine, the prelude to the Angelus Press. The first issue was published in January 1978. Father served as the managing editor from 1977 until 1990, when the Angelus Press was moved to Kansas City, MO. However, his official title was rather deceiving as he also took care of the typesetting, printing, collating and mailing of The Angelus as well as the various other books that the infant Angelus Press "*made from scratch.*" In 1991, SSPX District Superior Father Peter Scott asked him to take over the Society's work in Florida. While Father Carl was quite happy in Dickinson, he nevertheless went to "*fill this corner of the United States.*" He moved to Davie, FL where he not only continued to weather the storm of Modernism but also that of Hurricane Andrew in 1992. Since then, all of the Society's chapels in Florida pray every day after Mass for temperate weather.

When such a veteran of the holy fight was asked for advice in dealing with the crisis in the Church, Father would reply in his usual simplistic Franciscan manner: "Learn your faith and hold on to it. For priests and brothers: be faithful to your recitation of the Divine Office; where Mass is not available, keep Sunday holy as best as you can; hold on to your Rosary and be faithful to your devotion to Mary."

Please remember to pray for the repose of the soul of this Holy priest of God.

[return to contents](#)

Home | Contact | Mass Centres | Schools | Pilgrimages | Retreats | Precious Blood Residence
District Superior's Ltrs | Superior General's Ltrs | Various
Newsletter | Eucharistic Crusade | Rosary Clarion | For the Clergy | Coast to Coast | Saints | Links

[Français](#)