

Br. Joseph Garzia

He was born at Zabbar Malta in 1931, the second of six children. He was educated at first in the Government School. During the Second World War, when he was ten years old, his family took refuge at the island of Gozo further north. It was then that he became an altar boy at the Cathedral of Gozo and later on joined the Seminary of the Diocese. Immediately after the war, his family returned to Malta and he joined the Seminary of the diocese of Malta. Meeting a Capuchin priest, he decided to join the Capuchins.

He began his novitiate at the friary of Gozo at the age of seventeen. At that time he was given the religious name of Br. Dominic but later in life he would return to his baptismal name of Joseph. Since he had learned to be an electrician before joining the Capuchins, near the end of his novitiate in 1949, his superior ordered him to install electricity in all of the Gaza friary. After finishing his studies in Philosophy and Theology he was ordained a priest on September 21st 1956, by the Auxiliary Bishop Mons. Emmanuel Galea in the Cathedral of Medina. One month later, he was sent to Rome to study Dogmatic and Pastoral Theology. After graduating in these subjects, he returned to Malta in 1961 to teach in the Seraphic Seminary. In 1966, he was sent to be the parish priest at Holy Trinity parish in Marsa

After two years at Holy Trinity parish, he asked his superiors to have a pastoral experience abroad, in Canada. In a short time, he was appointed pastor of St. Philip Neri parish in Toronto. When Br. Joseph was preparing to go back to Malta in 1975, Mon. Thomas B. Fallon in appreciation for the pastoral work he had done wrote to him: "Before you leave Toronto, I should like to express to you the deep appreciation of the Archdiocese for the splendid contribution you have made to the life of the church in Toronto through your pastorate at St. Philip Neri Parish. St. Philip Neri is one of the largest and most complex in the whole Archdiocese. Its size and multicultural composition challenge the zeal and ingenuity of any priest. Yet by your dedication and competence as a pastor you have provided for the spiritual and social needs of the people of the area. You have done an outstanding job as the financial administrator of the parish, having remitted a very substantial debt on the parish in the short period of your tenure". In addition to his pastoral zeal, he is also remembered for his introduction of Bingo for financial support and for attempting to have chandeliers in the Church as is often found in Malta . His confreres were against the chandeliers not finding them appropriate in view of our vow of poverty.



DECEMBER 12

Br. Joseph Garzia

On May 1975, Br. Joseph Garzia went back to Malta to the Kalkara Friary. He was appointed to teach at the De La Salle College and to be in charge of the Third Order members as spiritual director. In the last 27 years of his life, he wrote articles for local papers. Most of his writings were researches of the old friary of Kalkara that went back to the times of the Knights of Malta.

On December 12th 2002 at the age of 72, his soul was called to enjoy the Kingdom of God.

