

Br. Ramiro Trejo

Ramiro Trejo was born in Crystal City, Texas on March 18, 1938. He was the second son of seven children born to Juan Trejo and Adelaida Ramon Trejo. In the early years of his life, the Trejo family was sustained by migrant work in southern Texas. In the mid-nineteen forties, his family moved to Archibald, Ohio. It was a chance for a better and more stable life for the entire family but also coping with change such as winter snow and harsh discrimination because of nationality and language.

He entered the Air Force in 1960. It was here that led him to deepen his faith by looking at Catholic literature and was confirmed in the Holy Spirit on May 21, 1963. He fully embraced the faith that was seeded in his person through baptism on August 26, 1938. After being honorably discharged from the service he was admitted to St. Lawrence College at Mt. Calvary, Wisconsin. He was 27 years of age and a veteran, and it was back to basic training once again. He did well in his studies and he described his two years at Calvary as the happiest years in his life.

Ramiro entered the Capuchin Community in August of 1967 and professed his first vows on August 18, 1968. He was sent to Crown Point, Indiana to continue his studies for priestly ministry. Aggiornamento after Vatican II caused a great deal of turmoil and confusion within the church and the Order. Caught up with a sense of restlessness, he requested a transfer to the Vice Province of Central Canada. During this sojourn, Ramiro pronounced perpetual vows on September 14 1974. In January of 1976, Ramiro requested and was approved for the transfer back to the province of St. Joseph. In the transfer communications, Ramiro is described by the then vice-provincial John Corriveau, as generous and very person-oriented, a man of faith and a pleasure to live within the community. He also adds that he is flighty. He further asserts, somewhat prophetically, that “Ramiro will be loved by his people, enjoyed by the brothers, and be the death of those ministers who like order and efficiency”.

He was ordained to the priesthood on August 20, 1977. And settling down for this itinerant was never meant to be. His ministerial assignments seldom lasted for more than two years and when they did, it was only after a few changes of location within the assignment. He was migrant born and migratory ever after.



October 03

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In his beautiful funeral homily, provincial minister, John Celichowski, said: “There are many worse ways to leave this world than how our brother Ramiro did. A little more than a week ago, he was suffering with diabetes, kidney failure and an infected aortic valve. The heart surgery he was willing to risk in order to get a shot of a little more life on this earth, had been called off because it was too risky.

Ramiro was looking at spending the remainder of his days in hospice care. Then he decided to walk. With several nurses in the room, he swung his feet over the side of his bed and announced, ‘I want to walk with Jesus!’ The nurses rushed over to him and eased him back in bed. With that, Ramiro died.” It was on October 3, 2009.

