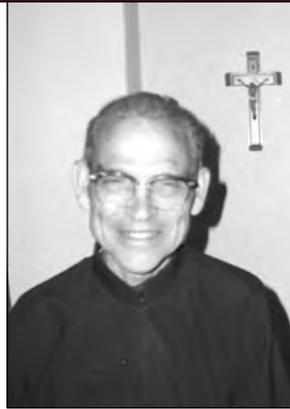


IN REMEMBRANCE: Martin (Raymond) Temple, C.Ss.R.

Br. Martin (Raymond) Temple, a joyful and prayerful blessing in brotherhood for 62 years, died peacefully at St. Clement Health Care Center on September 9, two weeks before his 91st birthday. Described as a willful confrere with strong religious convictions, “Little Brother” was especially devoted to the Blessed Mother and was an early and effective pro-life advocate.

Raymond Temple was born on September 24, 1923 in the Mohave Desert in California. After serving in the Military Police of the Armed Forces in the Far East, he felt a vocation as a Redemptorist coadjutor brother in Fresno and began his postulancy at Holy Redeemer in Oakland in 1946. During Novitiate in DeSoto, MO, he received the religious name “Martin” and his Redemptorist habit, which he wore faithfully with great devotion every day. He professed perpetual vows as a Brother on February 2, 1952.



Br. Martin served quietly in parishes in the former Oakland Province for half of a century. A cheerful presence in community, he had a good sense of humor and entertained confreres by playing classical music on the piano. During the 1950s he was assigned to Sacred Heart Parish in Seattle, St. Alphonsus Parish in Fresno and St. Thomas Parish in Coeur d’Alene. He spent the turbulent 1960s at St. Gerard Parish in Great Falls, MT, Palisades Retreat House in Federal Way, WA and on the Alaska missions.

Br. Martin was stationed at St. Alphonsus Parish in 1973 when the landmark *Roe vs Wade* Supreme Court decision legalized abortion in the United States. He was attracted to the pro-life movement, but did not actively participate in the cause until he joined Picture Rocks Retreat House in Arizona in the early 1980s. When he read a newspaper article about Operation Jericho, which picketed local abortion clinics, he was eager to participate and became deeply committed to the pro-life cause.

Br. Martin always wore his habit, and he was so independent that he insisted on riding a bicycle rather than depending upon the availability of a community car. Fr. Lyle Konen, superior of the Picture Rocks community at the time, remembers warning him not to ride his bicycle wearing his habit, and cautioned him to avoid the busy streets, especially in the afternoon. As dusk approached one evening, a woman momentarily blinded by the sun crossed into the oncoming traffic lane on Ina Road. She hit Br. Martin and almost killed him. He was hospitalized for several months. One day the hospital staff called Fr. Lyle to report that Br. Martin refused to take his medication. When Fr. Lyle intervened, Br. Martin said that he wanted to suffer for one more day, but then promised to resume his medication.

Br. Martin continued his pro-life ministry when he returned to Fresno in 1989. He arose early so he could arrive at clinics when they opened for business. As soon as the staff warned him that they had telephoned the police, he hopped on his bicycle and told them that he had to leave to make it back to the rectory in time for prayers. He was happy to have prevailed upon a recent immigrant – a non-Christian Iranian woman – to keep her baby.

After just two years, Br. Martin returned to Idaho, where he protested outside of the Women’s Clinic of Northern Idaho. When he was transferred to Holy Redeemer community in Oakland less than two years later, he was happy to receive a letter from Dr. William Tarnasky notifying him that the Women’s Clinic no longer performed abortions. “I thought that you would be pleased to know that your efforts and prayers have been rewarded,” Dr. Tarnasky wrote.

Failing health necessitated Br. Martin’s move to St. Clement Health Care Center in 1999. He maintained a cheerful presence despite his pains and was a beloved member of the community. His religious convictions were so strong that he insisted on kneeling on the bare chapel floor while he received communion until just a few months ago. The morning before Br. Martin’s death, staff nurse Brendan Selsor predicted, “Br. Martin will be in heaven today.”

A Vigil Service was held at St. Clement’s on Thursday evening, September 11. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at 10 am on Friday, September 12, followed by a graveside service and burial at the Liguori cemetery. May he rest in eternal peace.

Submitted by Kristine Stremel, with contributions from Fr. Lyle Konen, Fr. Don Liberty, Fr. Kevin Fraher and Br. John Matthys