



Rev. John H. Hampsch, C.M.F.

1925– 2020

May you rest in peace!



“The Love of Christ Impels Us!”

Father John was born on December 6, 1925 in the city of Nashville, Tennessee. His family relocated to the Chicago area some years later. While in school, he sensed the desire to study for the priesthood, so he applied to numerous seminaries. He was rejected because of a speech impediment. During this time, he came in contact with the Claretian Missionaries and was accepted because of his qualities and desire to serve in the Church.

In July 1943, he entered the Novitiate and a year later, July 16, 1944, he made his First Profession at Immaculate Heart Novitiate, Walnut, CA. Continuing his studies at Dominguez Seminary/Loyola University, he received a B.A. in Philosophy in 1948. Taking his courses for the priesthood at Dominguez, he was ordained a Priest at San Gabriel Mission, San Gabriel, CA, on September 20, 1952.

In 1952, Fr. John began his ministry at Dominguez Seminary, where he primarily ministered as professor of seminarians. For the next eight years, he taught at Dominguez and pursued further studies. He received an M.A. in Philosophy from Notre Dame University in 1958. From 1959 – 1962, he served as Professor at Claretville Seminary, Calabasas, CA. During these years he also took advantage of further studies at the Dominican House, River Forest, IL leading to a certificate in Spiritual Theology. In 1963, he was assigned to All Saints Parish, Fort Worth, TX, assistant pastor. In 1966, he was assigned to Mt. Claret Cursillo Center, Phoenix, AZ, where he was given the opportunity to serve in a variety of ministries including chaplaincies, giving retreats and providing cursillos. In 1969, responding to a need in the Province, Fr. John served as University Chaplain at San Marcos, TX, for one year. In 1970, he was assigned to the AVE Center as superior/director of the Claretian theology residence in San Francisco, CA. This opened the door for him to do outreach ministry and provided him time to begin writing and publishing. In 1972, he was assigned to the Claretian Renewal Center, Los Angeles where he continued offering retreats, preaching throughout the country and becoming involved in the Charismatic Renewal Ministry. While at the Claretian Renewal Center, he made time for extensive writing of books and pamphlets. From 1974-78, he continued offering retreats, giving lectures, writing articles for magazines, being a columnist for a newspaper, editing a variety of books and beginning the Claretian Tape Ministry. In 1978, he moved to Dominguez Seminary as his home base for the Catholic Claretian Tape Ministry where he expanded his work in teaching and preaching the good word. His outreach, especially through media and communications, brought many to see the good works of the Claretians. He returned to reside at the Claretian Renewal Center in 1993, while maintaining his active ministry. In 2008, Fr. John returned to Dominguez Seminary where he remained active in preaching, sacramental ministry, teaching and writing through his Claretian Tape Ministry (now known as the Claretian Teaching Ministry) until 2019 when his preaching days came to a halt due to his health. He continued to do spiritual direction by phone and internet touching many people with his spiritual wisdom. Fr. John’s books, pamphlets, CD’s and DVD’s dealing with spirituality, scripture and prayer are still made available through his Claretian Teaching Ministry Office.

Now listed in [Who’s Who in Religion in America](#), Fr. John referred to himself as an “itinerant preacher-teacher.” He widely traveled in numerous countries and every state. At times, the work and ministerial demands would call for Fr. John to be away from community. Yet, when he was present, he made himself available and attentive to his brothers. The spirit of our Founder, Father Claret was always present in his heart and soul. Always positive and encouraging, he brought the love of Jesus and Mary to his brothers. Fr. John passed away peacefully on November 9, 2020. Welcome home good and faithful servant.

In lieu of flowers and in memory of Fr. John Hampsch, CMF donations can be made for the continued support of our Claretian Senior Priests and Brothers, Seminarians and Foreign Missions. You may send your donations to Claretian Teaching Ministry – 10203 Lower Azusa Road, Temple City, CA 91780 or call 310-782-6408 or visit the Claretian Teaching Ministry website at:

<https://catholicbooks.net/cgi-bin/commerce.cgi?preadd=action&key=DONATE>