

Necrology

Juan Flores
1927 - 2020



Samuel Flores was born November 11, 1927 in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin. His mother was Timotea Cardenas and his father Florentino Flores. He was known affectionately as "Sammy." He attended St. Joseph Parish and Grade School in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin. Samuel excelled in all sports and followed his inspiration to become a priest by attending St. Lawrence Seminary High School in Mt. Calvary, Wisconsin from 1941-1945. Henry Riordan, the pastor at St. Joseph Parish, strongly encouraged vocations to the priesthood. There were sixteen priests ordained from the parish in fourteen years, including Juan, Anthony Scannell and his brother Francis Mary Scannell, who all became Capuchins.

While at St. Lawrence Seminary, Juan showed his prowess by excelling in sports, especially baseball and football. He was known as a jock. He was impressed by the prayer life of the Capuchins, joined them, and was invested March 2, 1945 at their novitiate in Huntington, Indiana. He then traveled to Garrison, New York for four years of philosophy and was perpetually professed on March 3, 1949, followed by four years of theology at Marathon, Wisconsin, where he was ordained on August 27, 1953.

His first appointment was in 1954 to teach at the Capuchin college seminary at St. Felix Friary in Huntington, Indiana. He taught a number of subjects but loved history. A new seminary was built in 1957 in Crown Point, Indiana, because of the large influx of students, and Juan went there to teach. His love for sports never wavered as well as his desire to attend Notre Dame University football games in South Bend, Indiana. At the time, there was a practice in the province that, if you traveled beyond fifty miles, a friar needed permission from the superior. Juan figured out that the distance between Crown Point, and South Bend, was fifty miles as the crow flew. His love for football was also demonstrated by his kicking footballs in an open field and having one of the friars shag them for him.

He liked his physique, and the students used to imitate him by inhaling and filling their lungs, and then when Juan would go to his room, they would show how he immediately exhaled. It was found out that he would sneak out at night to visit friends whom he knew in the Schererville, Indiana area.

When he finished teaching in 1968, he joined the United States Army as a chaplain where he stayed for twenty years. He invited me to conduct a parish renewal for his small parish in Germany. His community was very receptive to the talks. Later, the army found out that Juan was taking flights to Notre Dame to attend football games, which prevented his promotion.

When he retired from the army in 1988, he moved to California and renewed relationships with family and friends. In the process, he lost contact with the province except for attending one provincial chapter and a visit from Anthony Scannell when Anthony was provincial minister. The province experienced long periods of time without hearing anything from Juan. Before his

retirement from ministry, he served as a pastoral assistant in the Long Beach, California area and continued his love of history.

Juan died May 7, 2020.

~ Richard Hart