

Kenan Bernard Osborne, O.F.M. passed away peacefully in Santa Barbara, his native home, on April 19th, Good Friday. Born May 29, 1930, he is preceded in death by his parents Frederick Earl and Ida Lerg and brothers, Frederick Earl Jr. and Lawrence Gerard, and sister Rosalie Francis. He is survived by his sister-in-law Frances Lynetete Osborne and numerous nieces nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews.

His family being friends of the Franciscans, Kenan became thoroughly immersed in the ethos and culture of the followers of Francis of Assisi. He grew up in the shadow of Old Mission Santa Barbara, attended St. Anthony Seminary high school, entered the novitiate of the Franciscan Friars at Old Mission San Miguel, spent his collegiate studies at Mission San Luis Rey, and finished his theological studies at Santa Barbara. He professed final vows as a Franciscan and was ordained a priest at the Old Mission on December 17, 1955. Exceptionally talented, he joined an equally talented class of friars: missionaries, pastors, and teachers, one of whom became the worldwide Minister General of this global fraternity. After ordination Kenan spent several years working out of Oakland both as provincial assistant (“office boy” he called it) and promoter of vocations to the Order (1958-64). He received a licentiate in Sacred Theology from the Catholic University of America (1965) and a Doctorate from Ludwig-Maximilians Universität, Munich, Germany (1967).

Exceptionally talented, Kenan was a polyglot; his linguistic abilities in German, French, Italian, Latin, Greek, Hebrew, and some Chinese gave his scholarship depth and wide coverage in a global world. Right after Vatican Council II, and having attended lectures delivered by Dr. Joseph Ratzinger, he returned from his studies in Germany to help move the Franciscan theology school from its traditional location at Old Mission Santa Barbara to its new ecumenical venture at the Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, California. Under his leadership as President of the Franciscan School of Theology (1971-1985), he not only shaped the foundations of the Franciscan theological and pastoral revival in the United States but also helped establish the ecumenical Union as a premier graduate academic theological institution in the United States.

An intellectual leader in the Franciscan Order he served on its doctrinal commission and its international commission for studies for five years (1985-1991). He worked for the National Conference of Catholic Bishops to revitalize the sacrament of penance and served as member and eventual president of the Catholic Theological Society of America (1978-1979). He was associate editor of the *Journal of Ecumenical Studies* from 1973 to 2010 and lectured widely in the United States, Canada, Mexico, Bolivia, Kenya, New Zealand, Singapore, India and Italy... Among the outstanding awards received were the prestigious John Courtney Murray Award from the Catholic Theological Society (2002), the Pedro Arrupe Award from the Jesuit School of Theology Berkeley (1985), and the Franciscan Institute Medal of Honor (1999).

Always an intellectual and pastoral visionary, he pioneered theological education for men and women in lay ministry, worked for the equality of women in the Church, and labored tirelessly to promote what he called “equiculturalism” by helping to establish the Multicultural Institute, Berkeley, and from 1990 to 2007 traveling to China sixteen times. He studied Chinese culture and language, participated in international conferences, and lectured in philosophy at the Central University for Nationalities, Sichuan University, Chengdu, and Beijing University. Both through this work and through his numerous doctoral students now teaching in India, the

Philippines, Vietnam, and Korea, Kenan's vision of a global and inculturated Catholic Church continues.

Kenan is author or co-contributor of over twenty-one books and over seventy articles and reviews. While the generations of students whom he mentored will be grateful to him for his learning, he will be remembered not only as an exacting academic teacher who could make complex ideas simple and simple ideas practical, but also as a kind, gracious, listening, attentive, and pastoral man, giving witness through word and work to the best of his own Franciscan tradition. He accepted all without qualification and witnessed many baptisms, weddings, and funerals of family and friends; he was proud "grandfather" to many of his students' children. Kenan took to heart his own understanding of his life as a friar and his understanding of the priesthood as a "servant" to all.

In his declining years he was nothing but gracious and thankful for the smallest courtesies, especially those provided by nurse Anita Pivato, Diana Pini, and Peter McGory, and the local friar community at Old Mission Santa Barbara. His whole life was marked by energy for others, which often expressed itself in impish behavior, mischievous interactions, and humorous dialogues. The Church in the United States, the Franciscan Friars, and the community have lost a giant in the contemporary renewal inaugurated by Vatican Council II; they mourn a man whose small stature grew to enormous influence in word and deed in the best tradition of Francis of Assisi. Donations in his memory may be given for the completion of the Kenan B. Osborne Chair of Systematic Theology at the Franciscan School of Theology, 4050 Mission Ave., Oceanside, California 92057.