

On July 29, 2016, at 87 years old, at 7:50PM, in his room at the Friary of Saint Anthony of Lisbon, in Belém, Fr. Nestor (Bernard) Windolph left us on his journey to the Father. In the last few years, Fr. Nestor's health had become very fragile with lung problems and many other complications which had made him bed ridden for a long time. Just a few hours before his death he received a visit from a doctor friend from the parish, who examined him and told the friars that he was facing his final moments. The fraternity gave him all the needed assistance and there were several caretakers who stayed at his side day and night.

Fr. Nestor was born in Humphrey Nebraska, in the United States, on December 17, 1928. When he was 20 years old, he was received in Novitiate and made his first profession in the Franciscan Order on July 3, 1949. He made his solemn profession on July 5, 1952 and was ordained a priest on June 24, 1955. Just this past June, the Custodial Council sang congratulations to him for his 68 years of Franciscan life.

He was the son of a traditional Catholic family, all of his 11 brothers and sisters entered the religious life, the men became friars and the women entered various religious congregations. Only one returned home because of health problems, but was never married.

Fr. Nestor arrived in Brazil in the second half of the fifties and began working on Bishop Ryan's project of the installation of the Rural Radio of Santarém. In 1963, he returned to the United States and came back to Brazil in 1968 when he was stationed in the city of Belém and stayed there until his return to God.

In Belém he became known as the friar of the sick in the Hospital Beneficencia Portuguesa. Every day, in the early morning hours, he would help the nurses take care of the sick and during the day he would give spiritual assistance to the hospital community. For many years he was a member of the Ecclesiastical Tribune of the Archdiocese of Belém. He was an expert in Canon Law and well versed in Latin.

We pray that God have mercy on him, forgive his faults and receive him in his kingdom. Rest in Peace, Fr. Nestor.

Frei Francisco de Assis Siqueira Paixao, ofm