

Deacon Dustin Miller, OFS



Calligraphy by Fr. Franklin Fong, OFM

Dustin Miller was both a Secular Franciscan and an ordained deacon. Dustin passed away on July 15th, 2013. The following tribute was posted on the [Mission San Miguel Facebook page](#) by a fellow deacon, Dn. Rick Minton; photos from Deacon Dustin Miller's memorial service at Mission San Luis Rey were provided by the San Luis Rey Secular Franciscan fraternity.

The Deacon is to be the Icon of the Servant Christ, ordained for service to “widows and orphans” – in common terms – to serve the least among us. Deacons are called to minister with kindness and compassion, without pretense or boast. In this past Sunday's Gospel, we heard the story of the “Good Samaritan”, the one who was least expected to provide service to someone in need and yet fulfilled that need for service beyond logical explanation.

Dustin Miller was this kind of Deacon servant. Until you got to know Dustin, because of his quiet and apparently shy nature, you would not expect to find a bold servant of God, yet he was. Dustin was a faithful servant, a Franciscan Secular, and a member of the first group of Deacons ordained in our diocese. Being a little “long in the tooth”, Dustin was identified as a grandfather of the twelve deacon candidates in his group. It was discovered by the group that Dustin was a renaissance man, making wine and cheese from his own grapes and goat's milk, and sharing those creations at formation gatherings. However, what was also discovered was that under Dustin's quiet demeanor, was a man of fierce faith, a man with a very fine, dry sense of humor, and a personality that was naturally kind and nurturing – a perfect deacon candidate.

After Dustin's ordination over six years ago, he was assigned half-time to serve at Mission San Antonio and half-time here at Old Mission San Miguel. Prior to the discovery of his cancer he spent most of his last years of liturgical service as a deacon at Mission San Antonio.

Deacon Dustin Miller died early Monday morning, July 1st, 2013, after a courageous battle with cancer. We pray that God grant him light, happiness and peace and let him pass safely through the gates of death, and live forever with all the saints. And we pray for Dustin's wife, Jane, and for all of his family, that God will give them peace and comfort. Dustin was interred at Mission San Luis Rey, nearby his family.

Deacon Rick Minton

Memorial Service for Deacon Dustin M. OFS at OMSLR Cemetery Jul. 20, 2013



Deacon's friend and classmate, who presided at the memorial service. (Left)



Deacon's remains prepared for interment in the crypt. (Right)



Deacon's remains being interred in his crypt at OMSLR's Cemetery. (Left)



His friends and members of our fraternity in attendance at the service. (Right and below)

