

Obituary of Fr. Donald W.T. Grant, O.Carm.

The death on 14th July of Donald Grant is not just a blow to the Carmelite Order, but a source of sadness to the many people Donald had helped and guided.

Donald was born at Perth in 1947 and was proud of his Highland roots. After graduating in chemical engineering from Edinburgh University, he joined the Carmelites at Aylesford in 1970.

He enjoyed his time as a student friar in Dublin, Rome and Maidstone, where he spent a year teaching at St. Simon Stock School. His gifts as a counsellor and friend were seen quite powerfully. The laboratory was a place where he not only taught but helped to form people.

After ordination he went on to teach at White Friars, Cheltenham, where he acquired the nickname 'Brodie'. Studying in Chicago, he became fascinated with dream therapy and the Enneagram. At this stage he was appointed Novice Master and also worked as a Retreat Director. His generosity in giving people time was never stinted.

It was in 1986 that cancer was diagnosed. After extensive surgery and a long convalescence Donald resumed his work. In 1992 he was made head of the University Chaplaincy and pastoral care team in Aberdeen, but soon secondary cancer appeared. For the next five years he fought the illness, undergoing painful treatment and yet managing to continue his work with people, whilst serving the Order.

His death in Scotland is a severe loss, but his humanity and dedicated care of so many will be his lasting memorial.

(His funeral took place at St. John the Baptist, Perth on Friday, 18th July at 11.00 a.m., and he was buried in the Braes of Glenlivet. A Memorial Mass attended by many of his friends was celebrated at The Friars, Aylesford on Saturday, 16th August.)

Wilfrid McGreal, O.Carm.