

**Fr. Richard J. KISSANE** 85 IRL MRT KEN USA  
\* November 13, 1916 Kilgarvan, Ballylongford, Co. Kerry, Ireland

+ October 18, 2002  
Hemet, CA

Fr. Kissane was born on November 13, 1916 in Kilgarvan, Ballylongford, County Kerry, Ireland. He joined the Congregation of the Holy Ghost after completing his secondary studies at the Spiritan's Rockwell College, with his profession of vows in 1936. After completing his theological studies at Kimmage Manor in Dublin, he was ordained to the Priesthood at Clonliffe on July 15, 1945. After completing higher studies in Louvain, Belgium, Fr. Kissane was appointed to serve in the missions of Africa beginning in 1946 until 1958 as a professor at Holy Ghost College on the Island of Mauritius in the Indian Ocean. In 1958 he returned to Ireland where he taught at St. Mary's College in Dublin. Fr. Kissane returned to Africa in 1966, this time on the faculty of the Holy Ghost (Bigard) Seminary until the Biafran War forced his withdrawal in 1970. It was from there that he moved to Kenya where he served at St. Thomas Seminary until 1972. Fr. Dick was transferred back to Mauritius, this time as Pastor of St. Helene Parish until he came to the United States in 1976. Serving at St. Charles Medical Center in Oregon as chaplain, Fr. Kissane soon joined the USA Western Province of the Holy Ghost Fathers and was appointed to Our Lady of the Valley Church in Hemet, CA as parochial vicar and chaplain of the hospital. He briefly returned to formation work in Houston, TX at Holy Ghost Hall as director in 1981. Always accepting the "obedience" from his superiors, Fr. Dick returned to pastoral ministry in 1982 where he served in diverse parochial ministries, reaching out to the poor and the sick, first at Holy Ghost Church in Marksville, LA, then in 1983 at St. John the Evangelist Church and the Veterans Administration Hospital, both in Tucson, AZ. In 1988 he began a very active retirement at Casa Laval in Hemet, CA where he taught Adult Bible classes and led the San Carlos Mission Circle with enthusiasm and tireless devotion.

While classics and philosophy were his fields of study, he always loved theology, and more specifically Sacred Scripture. He spoke Irish, English, French, Greek, Latin and Spanish. As a young confrere he was known for his steadfast character and athletic prowess. Later in life, his confreres cherished his wisdom that was tempered with the utmost humility. The laity and clergy alike sought out his spiritual direction. His kindness and patience were hallmarks of his ministry among us. He never gave in to judgments or criticisms. Fr. Kissane was loved by those

who served with him, and those whom he served with great fervor, charity and sacrifice. He was a loyal and true Holy Ghost Father.

After a long illness, he passed away at Hemet Valley Health Care Facility in Hemet, CA. He was blessed to have regular visits by the confreres of the Spiritan communities at Hemet.

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