

Brief Eulogy for Fr. Christian R. Mondor, OFM, Ph.D.  
By Rabbi Stephen J. Einstein

Christian Mondor was my elder brother in ministry...my role model...my teacher...my friend. Like all of you, I loved him fiercely, and will miss him terribly. But...I am so thankful to have had him in my life for over two decades. I can honestly say that I was enriched by every encounter we shared through the years.

As so many people can attest, Fr. Christian was a true gift from God. He taught us how to relate to one another...with respect and with real caring.

Year after year, Fr. Chris and I would spend the morning of July 4<sup>th</sup> together, participating in the largest parade West of the Mississippi. Seated side by side on the Greater Huntington Beach Interfaith Council float, I took delight in his banjo playing as I joined him in singing favorite songs. Though I was

not surprised, I marveled at how many people would run into the street, yelling out his name...and how much joy it gave him to greet and bless each one.

At every public gathering in which Fr. Christian was asked to lead a prayer, he would open with these words, “Good and Gracious God,” In so doing, he reminded each of us that we are called upon to emulate the Divine—by ever seeking what is good and doing so with grace, compassion, and love.

Christian R. Mondor was a follower of St. Francis of Assisi. He was a brilliant, warm, gentle, compassionate servant of God and leader of God’s people. His life was the very embodiment of Franciscan principles.

And now we pray: May our beloved friend’s soul be bound up in the bond of Eternal Life, and we all say: Amen.