

Sylvan Conover, O.F.M. Cap.

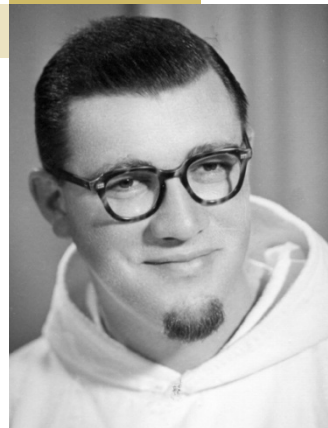
A Reflection by Robert Phelps, O.F.M. Cap.

Isaiah tells us this morning that 'On this mountain the Lord of hosts will provide for all peoples. On this mountain he will destroy the veil that veils all peoples.' The prophet reminds us that God will be the ultimate punctuation of our lives. It is God who gives us life, it is the same God who asks us to live faithfully in the shadow of his wings, as we await his promise of the kingdom; it is God who, through the inevitable and inescapable experience of human death will ultimately enable us to understand fully his gracious purpose. This is that gift of faith that promises ultimate sensibility to each of our life's journeys, and through this gift of faith we pray that God now unfolds his gracious plan to our brother Sylvan.

Our brother had the nickname 'Doc,' although this was evidently given to him when he was in formation, and I never knew why. In the Marianas, the older friars called him by that name.

Well, I have another more modern name for our brother. There is a children's film where the hero is a large green character, strong, imposing but sensitive, whose name is **Shrek**. Well, our brother Sylvan was no green character in a children's cartoon, but he was a large, strong, imposing, yet sensitive and prayerful friar. He was a giant among the shorter Micronesians he loved so much. As he grew older and feebler in recent years, Sylvan's large back was bent, and he seemed inches lower than when he was younger and healthy amid the islanders, head and shoulders over everyone. He was a gentle giant among the people on Saipan and Guam, and that's how I remember him. Our Brother Shrek, O.F.M. Cap.

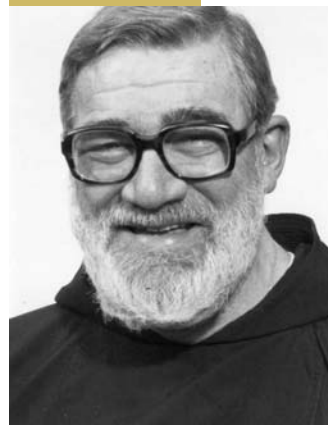
Sylvan loved his call to Capuchin Franciscan brotherhood and delighted when he could join friars whenever and wherever they gathered. I remember when, in the year 2000, a few of my classmates threw a surprise 60th birthday party for me; and along with classmates, there was Sylvan.



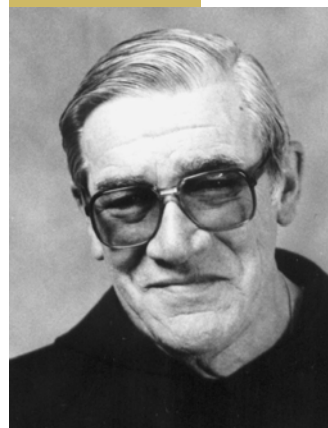
1966



1972



1988



2006

