



## Brother Michael "Raphael" Ruffolo, Ofm. Conv.

March 23, 1919 - April 19, 2016

Brother Raphael Ruffolo, OFM Conv. 97, was born on March 23, 1919, in Chicago, IL. He was baptized Michael Ruffolo; the fifth of ten children to the parents of John and Philomena (Tucci) Ruffolo. After high school, Mike worked for the Catholic Extension Society until he enlisted into the Army on December 1, 1941. During his forty-six months of military service, Mike fought valiantly and rose to the ranks of sergeant. During combat he was duly honored for his heroic efforts by receiving the Bronze Star, a Purple Heart Medal, and numerous other awards and decorations.

Upon his honorable discharge, Mike responded to the Lord's invitation to religious life. He joined the Conventual Franciscan Friars of St. Bonaventure Province at its new friary know as "Marytown." It was there he was given the postulant habit on March 25, 1949 and the name of Brother Rapheal Mary. He professed his first vows on February 12, 1951 and his solemn vows on February 12, 1954.

For much of Brother Raphael's religious life, our Lord and His Heavenly Mother utilized his natural leadership skills within the local community where he was entrusted with much responsibility. Brother Raphael was instrumental in relocating Marytown for Crystal Lake, IL; to Kenosha, WI to where it is presently located in Libertyville, IL. He became the first guardian (religious superior) of Marytown who was a religious brother and not a priest.

Throughout his more than sixty-five years of religious life, Brother Raphael has exemplified total consecration to our Heavenly Mother by his willingness

to be "a fit instrument" in her "immaculate and merciful hands" in building the Kingdom Jesus Christ. Due to failing health, Brother Raphael became a resident of St Mary's Home, Chicago, IL where he peacefully died, surrounded by his family, entering into eternal life on April 19, 2016.

Brother Raphael's wake will be on Friday, April 22, 2016 in Marytown's Chapel; beginning at 4:00 PM. Franciscan Wake Service at 7:00 PM. Mass of Christian Burial, Saturday, April 23, 2016 Noon. Committal will be at St. Adalbert Cemetery, Milwaukee, WI. Monday, April 25, 2016 at 11:00 AM. Arrangements by Burnett-Dane Funeral Home. Info: 847-362-3009 or please sign the guest book at [www.burnettdane.com](http://www.burnettdane.com).

# Tribute Wall



“ Everyone who knew Brother Raphael knew that he loved God, his faith, his family, his country and life. What a blessing to have known him almost 40 years. To correspond with someone intelligent, holy, strong, God fearing - and loving has been a blessed miracle. I read in the recent newsletter a few days ago that my cherished friend had passed away in April. I know he was praying for all of us. During his later years, whenever I would phone to see how he was doing, it was not uncommon for him to be spending time in prayer at the Tabernacle. We love you dear friend. To his family, friends and the friars, my deepest sympathies. Marie A. in CT

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July 18, 2016 at 12:00 AM