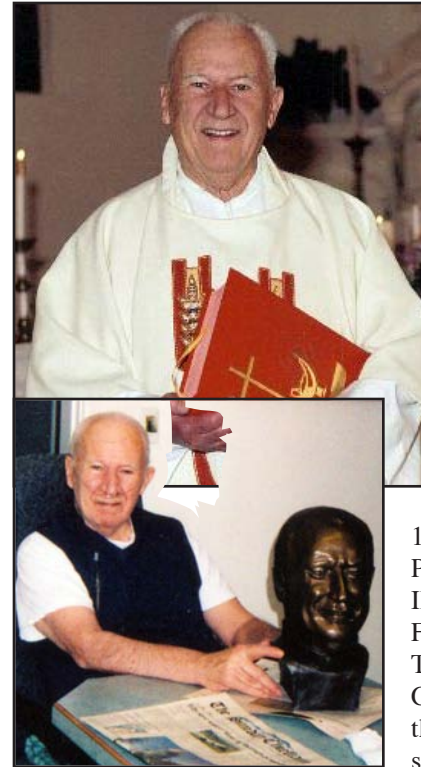




In Memory of
Father John C. Bowe, C.R.

Born May 26, 1923
Ordained December 22, 1968
Died August 12, 2008



Father John C. Bowe, C.R.

Father John Bowe, C.R. is a notable figure in the Immaculate Heart of Mary parish history, and served as pastor for over 21 years. The Prayer Garden was dedicated to Father John prior to his retirement and transfer to San Luis in October, 2004.

He came to Pagosa Springs in 1976 and was the pastor until 1984. The second period of his being pastor was from 1991 through October 2004. He continued as pastor of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish from 1976 until 1984 when he was called upon to serve as Provincial of the Theatines. He returned to IHM as pastor in 1991, and then in 2004 Father John was called to serve as the Theatine Parochial Vicar of the Sangre de Cristo Parish in San Luis Valley. During this time he also served two terms as supervisor of the North American Province of the Theatines. Father John was a

recognized leader in our parish as well as in the community. Each weekend he celebrated three masses and played the organ for Immaculate Heart of Mary. On alternating Sundays he traveled to one of the four mission churches in Archuleta County for Mass. According to an article in the Pagosa Springs Sun in 1998, "Wherever you venture in Archuleta County, you were likely to observe Father John Bowe ministering to his flock." On rare occasions you might catch him eating green chili at the Elkhorn. Whether conducting a Mass, a funeral or a wedding, Father John Bowe was a man of God and a man of his people.

Father John served in the US Army during World War II. After his service, his studies began at the Catholic University in Washington, D.C. while working as a social worker. He then entered the seminary in 1964 and was ordained a priest in the Theatine Order (Clerics Regular) on December 22, 1968. He served in various capacities as a school teacher and principal before being assigned to IHM in Pagosa Springs.

On August 12, 2008, while at the Colorado State Veterans Nursing Center in Monte Vista, Colorado, he was called to his heavenly home. There is no doubt that he continues to watch over his Pagosa IHM family.