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p. 63

## Appreciation:

### Fr John Frendo, OP

Fr HECTOR SCERRI, of the Faculty of Theology at University, writes:

THE news spread like wildfire on Thursday evening, January 2: "Miet Patri Gwann!"

Patri Gwann, as he was affectionately called by all, passed away suddenly in Albania. He possessed the extraordinary gift of reaching out to all who crossed his path, without any exception. He was a friend to all – parishioners (especially at Guardamangia and Jesus of Nazareth, Sliema), priests, religious, lay ministers, university students... and, more recently, the new flock he cherished with exemplary pastoral solicitude in Albania, in Suhkt, and later in Dürres.

With the late Mgr Joseph Lupi, Patri Gwann was one of the architects of liturgical reform in Malta after Vatican II. This unassuming Dominican succeeded in instilling in us, his students, a sincere love of the liturgy. In fact, he taught liturgy for nearly 20 years at the Faculty of Theology. He was always keen on keeping us well-supplied with lecture notes... as well as with copies of his various publications on the liturgy which he delighted in autographing for us.

In his lectures and talks – both at University as well as in parishes all over the island – he was always pastorally-oriented. He not only dreamed, but sought in all possible ways to lead us to animate and enjoy full, conscious and active communitarian participation in liturgical celebrations.

Christian optimism shone through Patri Gwann. He was the epitome of kindness. His memory and example will live on in the hearts of many in Malta... and beyond our shores. May he rest in peace!