

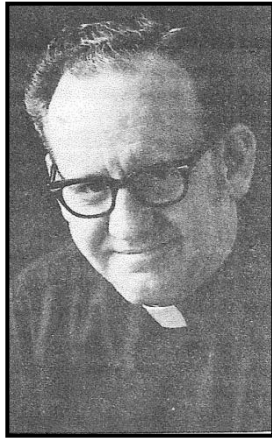
## Fr. Jovian Wiegel, OFM

+ 1921 – 2008 +

By William Wicks, SFO

The Secular Franciscans lost a good friend with the passing of Fr. Jovian Wiegel, OFM, who died peacefully on June 5. He professed solemn vows in 1943 and was ordained to the priesthood in 1948. "Jovian's whole ministry at the local, provincial and national levels was to his Secular Franciscan sisters and brothers," wrote Fr. Loren Connell, OFM, of St. John the Baptist Province.

Fr. Jovian began his Third Order/SFO ministry as a local spiritual assistant in 1950.



Fr. Jovian

In May 1970, he was appointed executive secretary of the North American Federation (that included provinces from both the United States and Canada). He served in that central position for over six years. Fr. Jovian also was the OFM representative to NAF Executive Board and for thirty years he served as Provincial Spiritual Assistant to St. John the Baptist Third Order Province. Fr. Jovian, together with the late Fr. Ulric Buening, OFM, Cap, and the late Fr. Brendan Mitchell, OFM, worked as a team as National Assistants, dedicating their lives for the benefit of the Third Order during the time of transition from friar to lay leadership. Fr. Jovian wrote several pamphlets, booklets and books - his latest: was co-authored with Fr. Leonard Foley, OFM, and Patti Normile, SFO - *To Live as Francis Lived*. He will be missed by all who knew him.

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