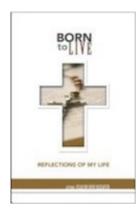


### **REFLECTIONS OF MY LIFE**

AUTHOR DEACON DON DEHAVEN



**Born to Live** is the story of Deacon Don DeHaven's life and our lives. We are born to live, here on Earth and forever in Heaven, in relationship with each other and with God. The front cover illustrates the Lord's love in his crucifixion. The back cover proclaims the Divine Mercy of Jesus. In between, Deacon Don's book is filled with personal stories that point to Jesus and his love and mercy for all.

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# BORN TO LIVE

## **REFLECTIONS OF MY LIFE**

**DEACON DON DEHAVEN** 

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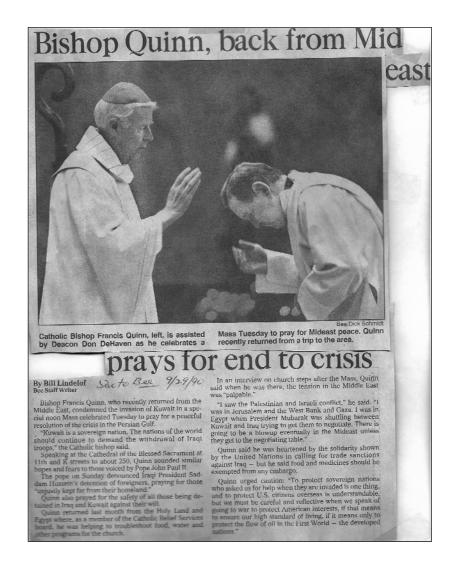
#### Chapter 24 - Bishop Francis A. Quinn: My Mentor, My Friend

Bishop Quinn's father died when he was six or seven years old, about the same age I was when my father died. After this, Mrs. Quinn moved the family from southern California back to Napa, in Northern California, where her family was close by. That was a great help because she was a working mother. There, she continued to raise her sons, Don and Francis. Francis was very athletic and loved to climb trees. His mom would come out to the back porch before dinner and call out to Francis to come in for supper. Knowing that Francis would procrastinate up in the tree she would say, "Francis, come down from that tree! If you fall and break a leg, don't come running to me."

After Francis became a priest and went home on weekends, he would take his mom into town so she could go to confession. Francis would say, "Mom, I'm a priest now, so I can hear your confession."

She would reply, "Not on your life." I got a kick out of this.

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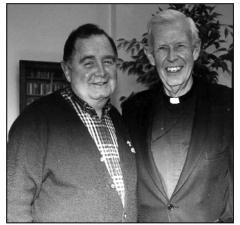
Bishop Quinn was a member of the board of the Christian charity services. From time to time, or annually, when they had trouble disbursing goods to the poor, he would look into it. At one time he said he

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had travelled to every continent but one. His favorite thing to do was working with the poor of the world.

After he retired in 1993, Bishop Quinn went to the Diocese of Tucson to minister to Native Americans at three reservations. He was very popular there. They loved him. He would drive in his camper, a retirement gift from the priests in Sacramento, to say Mass on the reservations, catechize the people, and prepare them for the sacraments. They would anxiously await his arrival.

The reservations were on a stretch of land 90 miles wide and 90 miles long, with many villages – many miles to cover, but he happily served the people, teaching them about Jesus. He did this for about ten years or more. I went down there two or three times to



help at Mass and with the sacraments.

He was verv much liked. Even the dogs recognized him. They would rush to greet him like а welcoming regular committee; jumping howling; and vou could almost see them smile. He would

always bring them treats. That made the dogs very happy.

When he celebrated Mass with the young Confirmation candidates, Bishop Quinn sometimes

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wore a beanie on his head, with a fan on top. When he put it on, the kids would roar at the bishop and his funny cap!

One time I gave him some light bulbs that would light up just by making contact with metal. He would talk to the kids about his different experiences, then take out a light bulb and put it on his ring, which caused it to light up. "There's nothing supernatural about my ring," he would say. "It's just me, I guess." This was his icebreaker to relax and prepare the kids to receive the sacrament of confirmation. Those kids were ready!

Bishop Quinn loved it there. He was very popular and he was a great help to the Bishop of Tucson. There was a shortage of priests and the bishop there was overwhelmed with work.

A generous family from Sacramento offered Bishop Quinn the use of their condominium in Baja California. The bishop and I would take a week or so vacation there each year. The condo was right on the ocean. We could step off the patio and be on the beach. He loved it! He would go down to the beach early in the morning, by himself, sit down, and write homilies to give after his vacation was over.

I had a hard time getting him to start these trips, because he was so busy and always needed, but it soon became an anticipated getaway. He loved the fresh air, the ocean breeze and beautiful sunsets.

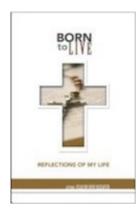
#### REFLECTIONS OF MY LIFE



Bishop Quinn has been my mentor and my friend, the older brother I never had. He changed my whole life and made my life so interesting and different than what it might have been. It was his love for others that I emulated. He showed me compassion and peace. He is now 93 years old and getting close to the time when he will meet his maker, the Lord. This idea saddens me, even though I know he will be going home and that the Blessed Mother will be there waiting for him, too.

His way is the way we all have to travel, and we all have to be prepared. As an aging Pope John XXIII would say as he went to bed every night, "My bags are packed and I'm ready to leave."

#### "Eye has not seen, ear has not heard, nor has it so much as dawned on man what God has prepared for those who love him." (I Cor. 2:9)



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