

Rev. Pierre Etchelecu

A funeral Mass will be celebrated at 7 p.m. this evening in St. Elizabeth's Church, Oakland, for the Rev. Pierre Etchelecu, dean of studies at the Franciscan School of Theology, in Berkeley.

Father Etchelecu suffered a heart attack while shopping in Berkeley Saturday and a fire department rescue unit rushed him to Herrick Memorial Hospital where he died a short time later. He was 45.

In addition to serving as superior of the Franciscan community at the school, Father Etchelecu also was vice provincial of the Franciscan order's St. Barbara Province, which includes California and five other western states.

A native of Santa Barbara, Father Etchelecu was educated there in the San Roque Parish School and St. Anthony's Seminary, entered the Franciscan order in 1951 and was ordained a priest in 1958.

An accomplished organist as well as a noted theological scholar, he received a music degree from Dominican College in San Rafael and a degree in sacred liturgy from the Institute Catholique in Paris.

He was active as a lecturer on sacred liturgy at various Bay Area colleges and parishes, and was a professor of sacred liturgy and early church history at the Berkeley school, a unit of the Berkeley Graduate Theological Union.

Father Etchelecu leaves his mother, Etienne Etchelecu, of Santa Barbara, and a brother, Albert, of Glenmore, Pa.

The Franciscan friars will offer another Mass Wednesday at the Old Mission at Santa Barbara, followed by entombment in the Friars' Crypt in the adjoining cemetery.

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Sat, Nov 16, 2019