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Three Heroes of Assisi in World War II, edited and written by Josef Raischl, SFO, and André Cirino, OFM

The three heroes of the title were Bishop Giuseppe Nicolini, Bishop of Assisi until his death in 1973; Colonel Valentin Muller, MD, Commander of Assisi from September 1943 to June 1944 (d. 1951), and Don Aldo Brunacci, a local priest who was still alive at the time of the book's publication (2005).

The book is an almost seamless collection of extracts from works by reputable historians and principals in the events of the fateful period, especially Bishop Nicolini and Don Brunacci. An important chapter, authored by Raischl and Cirino, deals with the German Commander. His efforts to spare Assisi from destruction and to aid its citizens and the many refugees, Jews among them, who were taken in are carefully chronicled. A memorial tablet honors his memory at the gates of the city. His tombstone in Germany bears a carving of the Basilica of St. Francis along with the Sacro Convento. Above it a Latin inscription reads: *In serviendo consumor: I give my life in serving.*

My Heart's Quest. Collected Writings of Eric Doyle, Friar Minor, Theologian, edited by Josef Raischl, SFO, and Andre Cirino, OFM

Eric Doyle, who died in his forties, was one of those rare friars who easily combine depth of knowledge with a delightfully outgoing personality. He majored in church history, earning a doctorate *summa cum laude* from the **Antonianum**, taught in England and the United States, and was a popular media commentator, especially on Catholic subjects.

Raischl and Cirino have caringly and carefully given us a substantial book (619 dense pages complete with two CDs attached to front and back inner covers) treating a wide range of topics. A whole section, amounting to 355 pages, deals in detail with Franciscanism alone (and could form a separate anthology). The book's articles are interspersed with photos, homilies, remembrances, and bibliography. Doyle's style is scholarly but clear and coherent. Specialists and average readers alike will be well rewarded for even a cursory survey of this important work.