

ronmental challenges will unfold. This will require humans to revert to the skills of our primitive past in which we creatively adapted to harsh and changing environments. “Resilience” here for organizations means strengthening by keeping options open, valuing heterogeneity and diversity, and viewing events in a regional rather than local context. It means realizing that we cannot precisely predict the future but must develop a capacity to devise systems that can absorb and accommodate future events in whatever unexpected form they may take. The 21st century will also see the development of complex adaptive social/ecological systems. Humans will respond to the environmental crises by “the initiation of a series of physiological, behavioral, ecological, and genetic changes that restore their ability to respond to subsequent unpredictable environmental changes.”

The computing power of ubiquitous cellphones, GPS technology, renewable energy distributed to millions of homes and businesses, electric vehicles, and other factors will help create a sharing economy, not based on profit but on mutual benefit. Early examples of the sharing economy are Uber, Wikipedia, Airbnb – over time the sponsoring middlemen will be cut out. The global oligopolies like Google, Apple and Facebook, which are built on selling users’ personal data, will be phased out as governments regulate antitrust and privacy issues. Europe has already begun doing so.

This new economic system, the first to develop since capitalism and socialism in the 18th and 19th centuries, will value QLI

(quality of life indicators) over GDP (gross domestic product, which measures all economic activity). It will require that humanity realize that it is kin to and dependent on all of life, and not separate or superior to other life forms. It will focus on restoring the air, soil, and water of the earth. Humans will reject consumerism and endless acquisition and redefine what makes a successful life.

Rifkin sees the beginnings of much greater participation by citizens in the management of their communities in what he calls “distributed peerocracy.” In order to steward our local bioregions through the climate emergencies, we need “a species-wide commitment to collectively participate in strong peerocratic governance.” This means every person must be involved. The idea is not Descartes’ “*I think, therefore I am,*” but rather “*I participate; therefore, I exist.*” To achieve this participation requires the expansion of “*biophilic consciousness*”: the feeling of deep empathic resonance with all of life – which is already rising in the younger generation.

The Age of Resilience is an exciting book, full of hope for the future, based on science and new thinking, on how we will preserve and strengthen life on earth in the face of the 21st century challenges.

BIO: Darby Riley practices law in San Antonio with his son, Charles Riley, and is a long-time environmental activist. He is a active with the Sierra Club.



Rev. William (Bill) Davis

March 27, 1931 – December 18, 2023

Rev. William “Bill” Davis, OM, born in San Antonio, Texas, died here at the age of 92 years. He professed vows as a member of the *Congregation of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate* on May 31, 1954 and was ordained to the priesthood on June 1, 1957 in San Antonio. He taught at the *Oblate Seminary* in Mexico City where he honed his skills in

Spanish. That was followed by ten years of teaching in San Antonio at St. Anthony’s Catholic High School. Father Davis was campus minister at Our Lady of the Lake University, San Antonio, between 1978-1981. His pastoral ministry in San Antonio began at *St. Alphonsus Church* in San Antonio, a poor church located in the barrio where he found his voice as a social activist and would take part in programs and marches to improve the lives of his parishioners. While there he was very active as a supporter of C.O.P.S. (*Communities Organized for Public Service*) and continued supporting grassroots organizing efforts by community members. In 1986, he facilitated the rental of *Esperanza Peace & Justice Center’s* first building at 922 N. Flores for \$1 per year, from the Oblate Fathers. From 1990-1993 he served in the Oblate mission in Zambia. Back in Texas his last two pastorates were at *Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish*, Houston, and *San Francisco Javier*, Laredo, a parish that was extremely poor, with mostly elderly and immigrant parishioners. His dedication and Spanish-language skills immediately

attracted a congregation that continued to grow. He expanded his focus to include environmental concerns and was active in an effort to get plastic bags banned in Laredo which had been littering the community and causing significant problems for the city’s creeks and storm drains. In 2014 Fr. Bill formed “*The Samaritans,*” a group of parishioners who lend a hand to anyone who needs it — the elderly, disabled, sick, lonely and grieving. The good works of *The Samaritans* began to draw attention beyond the parish and was a reason why Fr. Bill was nominated for a national award, the *Lumen Christi Award from Catholic Extension*. Since, 2016, Fr. Davis has lived at Oblate Madonna Residence in San Antonio. Fr. Davis will be remembered with respect and esteem by his Oblate brothers and all the people who were recipients of his pastoral care for 60 years. He was celebrated in services on December 28,

2023 and was buried at the Oblate Cemetery in San Antonio. Memorial donations in honor of Father Davis may be sent to Oblate Madonna Residence, 5722 Blanco Road, San Antonio, TX 78216. The Esperanza board, staff and Buena gente will hold Fr. Bill in esteem and extend condolences to his family, friends and parishioners on his passing. ¡Que en paz y poder descanse!

