

Fr. Alphonse J. FAVRE 90 USA

* August 15, 1901, Conway, AR

+ Feb. 11, 1992, Alexandria, LA

The oldest of 11 children, he descended from the sturdy pioneers who had settled in the Spiritan colony started by the "Duke of Arkansas" (Fr. Joseph Strub) in the late 1870's, and he was born there appropriately in a log cabin. When in his teens he expressed the desire to be a priest and join the Congregation, he travelled in 1915 to distant Cornwells for his high school studies.

From there he went to Ferndale for his novitiate and could pronounce his first vows on his twentieth birthday in 1921. His senior studies in the same house were interrupted by prefecting in Duquesne University's Prep. School, 1923-25, where he taught Greek and German. His ordination to the priesthood took place in Ferndale August 27, 1927. Being fluent in three languages and without any ethnic prejudices, he would be able to serve anywhere.

His first assignment took him back to Duquesne's Prep. School for three years of teaching, and then as assistant pastor to the German parish of St. Anthony in Millvale, PA. Then, in 1939, the zealous priest was promoted to pastor of the French Holy Ghost parish in Chippewa Falls, WI.

There he really came into his own and for twenty years did a marvelous job. The quiet little church became a thriving fully equipped city parish, much to the satisfaction of the bishops and the people. His work there, however, came to a sudden end in 1960 when Bp. John Treacey abruptly took the two Spiritan parishes in Chippewa Falls away from the Congregation.

Reassigned to the African-American parish of St. John's, Fort Smith, AR, he served there till 1963 when he became pastor of St. Joseph's, Bay City, MI. Again, his ministry there earned him the highest praise of the bishop.

the esteem of the clergy and the trust of his parishioners.

When in 1969 he needed a less demanding job--he was 68 years old then--he went to Pittsburgh's Polish parish of St. Stanislaus as administrator, and then in 1972 to the African-American church of St. Augustine, Isle Brevelle, LA, as an assistant. He continued to render temporary service in several African-American parishes in Louisiana until 1975. In that year he retired to Sacred Heart parish in Morrilton, AR, and then to St. Joseph's, Conway, AR, his hometown.

His retirement, however, was a very active one; he remained very much involved in parochial and extraparochial duties, while also indulging in his favored hobbies of fishing and hunting. Having celebrated his 90th birthday and the 64th anniversary of his priesthood in 1991, he died in Natchitoches, LA, where the Congregation has a retirement home.

His mind remained clear and his memory sharp till the end. As matter of fact, two weeks after his death, a letter of his arrived in Bethel Park. He had mailed it in January, but the delivery had been slow. Handwritten in his firm and vigorous script, it gave clear and precise information about some long-past events he was familiar with.

Interment took place at the St. Joseph's, Conway, parish cemetery.