

Fr. Bartholemew McMAHON 79 IRL NGA SW CAN USA

\*JUNE 26, 1912, Flagmount, Co. Clare, IRL + June 6, 1992, Philadelphia

After graduating from Blackrock College, Dublin, in 1932, he did his novitiate at Kimmage, where he pronounced his first vows, September 8, 1933. His senior studies there were interrupted by the usual two years of prefecting at Blackrock, 1935-1937.

Ordained in Dublin, June 23, 1940, he received his appointment to Nigeria. He stayed there for twenty years, in the densely populated vicariate of Onitsha. It was one of the most fruitful missions in the world, where after fifty years of hard labor a bountiful harvest was being reaped. Father worked there with all his energy among the Igbo people at Umuahia, Maku and Eke before being asked to open new missions at Agbani and Enugu.

Returning to Europe, he functioned for a year as spiritual director in the international Spiritan seminary of Fribourg, Switzerland. Then in 1962 he received an assignment to Canada for Holy Rosary Church, Guelph, Ontario. He became pastor there and built the first church for the growing parish.

Three years later, he came to the U.S.A. After serving briefly as an assistant at Holy Ghost, Opelousas, LA, and at St. Theresa's, Tiverton, RI, he spent five years as an assistant at St. Anne's, Millvale, PA.

In 1972 he volunteered to replace hospital chaplains in New York during the summer months. He fell in love with this type of ministry and obtained permission to continue it all year round. For twelve years he served in this capacity in various hospitals in New York and Connecticut, earning the gratitude

of all who came in contact with him.

In 1984, when he was 72 years old and the weight of the years began to make itself felt, he asked for some form of active retirement. It was granted as replacement ministry for priests on leave in Rhode Island, while being stationed first at St. Theresa's, Tiverton, and then at St. Catherine's, Little Compton.

In 1985 he retired fully in the last-named locality.

As his infirmities increased, it became necessary to assign him two years later, to the Spiritan retirement facility in Cornwells, PA. He died of cancer in the John Newmann Nursing Home. After the funeral service in Cornwells, one of his relatives accompanied his remains to Ireland for burial in his hometown cemetery. They had planned this several years before.

He was at his best when he could function in a one-man operation. As a missionary in Nigeria, a pastor in Canada, and a hospital chaplain in the U.S.A., he had earned the highest recommendations for his enthusiasm and dedication.