

Fr. Daniel B. DEDOMINICIS 74 USA

* November 28, 1921 Valle Castellano,
Teramo, Italy

June 24, 1995 Jefferson Borough, PA

He was only nine months old when his parents moved to the U.S.A. and settled in Clairton, near Pittsburgh, PA. After attending the local schools, he began his college studies at Duquesne University in 1940 for two years and then entered the Cornwells junior college. On July 16, 1944 he made his vows at Ridgefield, CT. Going on to Ferndale, Norwalk, CT, he did his senior seminary studies and was ordained there on June 3, 1949. Meanwhile he had also completed his university studies during the summer months and earned a bachelor's degree in chemistry. In later years he would earn his master's degree at the University of Virginia (1957).

His first assignment in 1950 took him to St. Joseph's parish in Conway, AR, as an assistant. He was very happy there and worked with great zeal and enthusiasm, especially in giving instruction. So it was no surprise that the bishop was very reluctant to see him transferred to St. Emma Military Academy for African-Americans in Powhatan, VA, in 1952. Being a very good instructor, he was posted in 1955 to the new Spiritan junior seminary in Ann Arbor, MI, and in 1956 to Cornwells.

In 1958 he was assigned to California to teach science in Notre Dame High School in Riverside. He functioned as such for ten years. He then went into pastoral duties as pastor of Our Lady of Guadalupe parish in Riverside, CA., a parish of some 28,000 people, mostly comprised of Mexicans and African-Americans. There he became much involved in the Indians missions, which led to his meeting with Bishop Braulio Sanchez of Mexico. They became great friends and from then on Father Dan continued to support the mission to the Indians. A special feature of the Bakersfield parish was that it had its own medical clinic. The

poor whom it served showed their gratitude by volunteering to help other poor people throughout the world by collecting medicine, other drugs, clothing etc. and shipping them to their destination.

In 1976 he was appointed pastor of Our Lady of the Valley parish in Hemet, CA. He drew attention there by his radio talk shows; they were entertaining, instructive and eagerly received, being a delightful combination of Bp. Fulton Sheen with a dash of Elmer Gantry, as was said in a newspaper article in 1977. Best of all, however, were his Bible classes for adults. They were attended by some 300 people of all faiths in two weekly sessions. They were so good that the University of San Diego accorded academic credits to qualified students.

In 1978 he went to the University of San Francisco for two years of Scripture studies and then served for eight years at Resurrection parish in Sunnyvale, CA. His health showed signs of declining there in 1988, and the doctors diagnosed diabetes. Sent to Arizona, he still rendered some service there at St. John the Evangelist parish.

In 1991 he entered the retirement home at Bethel Park, near his hometown of Clairton. His final years were filled with suffering: three times a week he needed dialysis to stay alive and twice he had to undergo amputations and he became almost blind. But he never complained nor did he talk about his mental or physical pains. In a final coma he entered Jefferson Memorial Hospital, where he died soon after arrival. Interment took place at St. Claire's Cemetery in Clairton.