

Fr. Eugene E. MORONEY 66 USA

*January 6, 1916 Brooklyn, N.Y. +May 11, 1982 Natchitoches, LA.

A brother of Joseph P. Moroney, Eugene had finished two years of college in his hometown when he entered the Ridgefield novitiate. He made his first vows there August 29, 1936. Ordained in Ferndale June 20, 1941, he got as his first appointment to assist the mission procurator in Washington, D. C.

In 1947 he went to Holy Ghost parish, Opelousas, LA., and two years later he became the first pastor of its St. Joseph's mission in Plaisance. Then, in 1955, tuberculosis forced him to resign and he spent 18 months in a hospital in Brooklyn.

Having recovered, he became vocation director in Washington, D.C. Further appointments sent him to Sacred Heart, Detroit, Our Lady of Mercy, Charleston, S.C., St. Edward, New Iberia, LA., and, in 1968, to St. John, Tucson, AZ. There he became pastor in 1975.

His final appointment took him to St. Anthony's parish, Natchitoches, LA. in 1980 where he died in his sleep. Interment took place at the community cemetery in Sharpsburg, PA.

When he had to leave Plaisance, Fr. Edmund Leonard, his successor, told the parishioners that he could not possibly run the parish on the 35 cents a week each of the 120 black families contributed. They told him that Fr. Moroney had said "he could make it on that." Later, when Fr. Leonard visited Eugene on his sickbed in Brooklyn, he asked him how he could ever have said that. The reply was: "That's only half of the story. When I got there, they contributed only 15 cents a week per family. So I told them I could make it on 35 cents."