

Rev. George F. Healy, C.S.Sp.

Fr. George F. Healy, C.S.Sp. died October 21, 2011, at St. Vincent's Medical Center, Bridgeport CT., where he had been struggling with complications following surgery on September 30th for spinal stenosis. He was 84.

George Francis John Michael Healy was born in Bridgeport, CT on August 14, 1927. After attending primary school at Sacred Heart Church in Bridgeport he joined the Spiritan community for his secondary studies at Holy Ghost Apostolic College in Cornwells Heights, PA in 1942. He was first professed as a member of the Congregation after completing his novitiate at Ridgefield, CT on February 22, 1948. He attended St. Mary's Seminary (Ferndale, at Norwalk, CT) for the completion of his college and Theology studies. He was ordained at Ferndale on June 5, 1953 by Bishop John Hackett, the Auxiliary Bishop of Hartford, CT.

Fr. Healy received his first appointment to the Spiritan missions in Puerto Rico where he served in the parishes of San Felipe, Arecibo (1954-56), San Juan Bautista, Orocovas (1956-62), Dorado, Arecibo (1962-65), and Virgen del Carmen, El Coto, Arecibo (1956-67) prior to returning to the mainland in 1968. He briefly served as associate pastor at Holy Ghost Church in New Orleans, LA and then St. John's Church in Tucson, AZ. In 1969 he became one of the first vocation directors of the newly established Western Province of the Congregation of the Holy Spirit. He gave generously of his time and energy to this important project while based at the Spiritan parishes of St. Catherine of Alexandria in Riverside, CA and Our Lady of Guadalupe in Bakersfield, CA. During this time also became very involved in the Cursillo, Marriage Encounter and the Christian Family movements of the post-Vatican II Church.

In 1973 he began his long tenure of service to the Congregation and the Archdiocese in San Antonio, TX. Fr. Healy was first named as director of the Spiritan students who were completing their theological studies at Oblate College of the Southwest, later to be known simply as Oblate School of Theology. In 1978 he was appointed as the pastor of St. Agnes Church in a very poor neighborhood in the west side of the city. His reputation was that of a kind and generous pastor, always present to his people, who gave special attention to the poor and the sick. In 1981 he was asked to serve as provincial bursar where again he showed his unyielding dedication in service to the confreres. At the end of his tenure Fr. Healy was overjoyed to return to serve his beloved parishioners at St. Agnes for another six years! He was appointed as pastor at St. John's Church in Tucson, AZ (1990-91) to prepare this Spiritan parish to be returned to the care of the diocesan clergy. This allowed Fr. Healy to return once again to his beloved San Antonio where he began what would be another seven years of service to the local church as Chaplain to the sick at Bexar County Hospital, St. Luke's Hospital and Methodist Hospital, while assisting on weekends in local parishes. In 1998 he was appointed associate pastor of Our Lady of the Valley Church, and then in 2000 until 2010, as the Superior and member of the Spiritan community at Casa Laval both in Hemet, CA. Other than a year of his retirement (2004-05) when served on the formation team at St. Mary Magdalene in Chicago, IL, Fr. Healy gave his whole and undivided attention to the spiritual and physical needs of the confreres retired in Hemet. Coming from such a large and religious family, one of thirteen children (9 boys, 4 girls) George always saw the confreres in his religious family as an extension of his own natural family. He will always be remembered for his commitment to the apostolic and religious life, his compassion for the sick and the poor and his caring concern for all the needy people that came into his life.