

Fr. Joseph Patrick MORONEY 74 USA

* Sept. 17, 1912 Brooklyn, NY

+ May 23, 1987 Bay City, MI

He came from a family of seven children, including his brother Eugene, who followed him into the Congregation. After attending high school and college in his hometown, he entered Cornwells for one year in 1932. He pronounced his vows at Ridgefield July 31, 1934. At the end of his philosophy studies at Ferndale, he was sent to Fribourg, Switzerland, for university studies in theology. Archbishop Le Hunsec ordained him a priest on July 23, 1939, just before World War Two forced him to return to Ferndale to complete his theology.

His first assignment took him to DU, where he was to spend twenty-five years. He did graduate studies in chemistry and, after teaching it for some years, became chairman of that department in 1952. Four years later he was made dean of the college of arts and sciences. Saying farewell to DU in 1965, he served as director of Bethel Park's collegiate seminary for five years.

In 1970 we find him at St. Patrick's, Charleston, SC, as pastor for two years. He loved this kind of work. The rectory was in bad shape, but money to fix it was scarce. One morning, though, he and his assistant Fr. William Joyce had a surprise. They were taking breakfast together when suddenly the front wall of the house, built in 1842, collapsed around them. They escaped without any serious injury.

In 1972 he became director of Ferndale, and five years later he could resume pastoral ministry at St. Catherine's, Little Compton, RI. No longer in the best of health, he was appointed superior of the retirement community in Cornwells in 1983. He longed, however, for a more active role and two years later he could go to St. Joseph's Bay City, MI, as an associate pastor.

He died there of a heart attack in 1987. His burial took place at the Sharpsburg community cemetery.

Throughout his life he earned nothing but praise from his superiors as a gentle man with an excellent mind and a good practical judgment, as well as a true community man. In his pastoral work he received the love of his parishioners because of his great interest in the school children and his faithfulness in visiting the sick.

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