

Fr. Martin F. CONNOLLY 78 PR USA MEX

\* May 16, 1915 Boston

+ August 23, 1993 Hemet, CA

A Cornwells graduate, he made his vows on August 15, 1942 at Ridgefield. In the final year of his senior seminary studies at Ferndale he was ordained there on June 3, 1947.

The following year he received his assignment to Puerto Rico. He served there as an assistant at Toa Alta till 1951, at Dorado till 1953, at Juncos till 1956 and at Jayuya till 1957. He then ministered for ten years at Dorado as pastor.

Returning to the mainland in 1967 after 19 years in Puerto Rico, he could make good use of his fluency in Spanish at Bakersfield's Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, CA, where he worked for one year and at St. John Evangelist Church in Tucson, AZ, where he labored for four years as an associate pastor.

In 1972 we find him as pastor at both Sesabe, AZ and at Sonora, Mexico, two borderland missions. Returning to St. John's in Tucson three years later, he resumed his associate pastorship for two more years.

In 1977 he was transferred to San Antonio, TX, as associate pastor. Four years later he became superior of Holy Ghost Hall in Houston, TX.

In ill health, he resigned in 1991 and went to reside at Padua Place, San Antonio and one year later at Casa Laval in Hemet, CA, where he died. Interment took place at the local community cemetery.

A congenial confrere and a great community man, he was also a firm believer in youth ministry as long as he could manage to keep his hand in this form of ministry. Having worked most of his life among poverty-stricken people, he used to say, "We don't have a lot of money, but we had a lot of fun." He laughed easily, but mostly at himself and not at other people.

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