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Fr. Paul A. O'DONNELL 72 U.S.A.

*February 16, 1909 Mauch Chunk, PA

+ August 8, 1991 San Antonio, TX

He was the eldest child of four born to James A. O'Donnell and his wife, Mary Burke. One of his two sisters became a nun and worked as a missionary in Peru for twenty years; and he was a cousin to Archbishop Francis Furey of San Antonio, TX.

In 1934 he earned a B.A. degree at St. Mary's College, Emmitsburg, MD, and then taught for three years at a Philadelphia High School. He took his first vows in the Congregation on August 15, 1938 at Ridgefield, CT. He was attending the theology program in Ferndale when he became a priest there on March 4, 1942.

Assigned at first to the Southern Missions, he worked for 25 years as an associate pastor. We find him listed at St. Peter's, Charleston, SC, Sacred Heart, Lake Charles, LA, and St. Augustine's, Isle Brevelle, LA. Other places where he worked were Conway, AR, Muskogee and Tulsa, OK, Riverside, CA, Chippewa Falls, WI, New Orleans, LA, and Hemet, CA. He served as a pastor in Mansura, as well as Alexandria, LA, and Rifle, CO, before again becoming an associate pastor at St. Agnes, San Antonio, TX, in 1973.

By then he was seriously ailing and had to spend several years in the infirmary at Jemez Springs, NM. When he was sufficiently improved, he could move to the retirement section, until in 1981 he entered Padua Place in San Antonio, TX. A decade later, he died there of heart failure in the 50th year of his priesthood.

Apart from his regular ministry in mostly poor parishes, Father was a frequent contributor to monthlies for priests, such as The Homiletic, The Ecclesiastical Review, and The Priest.