

Fr. Paul Joseph LIPPERT 79 USA

* April 20, 1906 Pittsburgh

+ Nov. 22, 1985 Sarasota, FL

After studying at Schenley and St. Paul Cathedral high schools, he attended DU Prep. for two years and then went to Cornwells for two years of college in 1931. He made his profession at Ridgefield July 31, 1934. Two years of theology followed at Ferndale, after which he was sent to Fribourg to pursue university studies. The outbreak of World War Two, however, caused his recall to Ferndale in 1939. Before he left, Archbishop Le Hunsec had ordained him July 23, 1939.

In 1940 he received his first appointment, to Cornwells. Then in 1942 he volunteered as a chaplain in the Army. He saw overseas service in the Pacific, notably in the Philippines and Samoa.

Writing to the Provincial from the Pacific, he requested that an artist be asked to produce a picture of Our Lady, Queen of Peace, so that this ideal woman could become an alternative to the girly pin-ups so common in military camps. The request sparked the interest of Robert Heim, an artistic Spiritan seminarian, who painted such a picture for him.

Father got the first 1,000 reproductions of it in 1944 and distributed them in his area. When newspapers and big weeklies picked up the story, orders for copies came from across the world, wherever U.S. forces were engaged.

Illness sent him to a hospital in Richmond, VA, in 1945, and the following year he was discharged from the service. He then ministered at Our Lady of the Valley, Hemet, CA, and built its church. In 1948 he assumed the same duty at St. Catherine's, Riverside, CA. Five years later, much to his own regret and that of the local Holy Name Society, he was transferred to Sacred Heart, Morrilton, AR. From there he went to St. John's Dayton,

OH, in 1950. When this black parish merged in 1963 with St. James, he remained its pastor for another five years.

It was not always easy to be a true pastor in that predominantly black parish in the inner city. On one occasion race riots broke out, following the shooting of a Negro by a white man. Playing the role of mediator, Father rushed to every spot where a flare-up threatened and putting his arms around upset blacks ready to resort to violence, he soothed their pent-up anger against discrimination.

From 1970 to 1976 he served as chaplain to hospitals in Parkersburg, WV, and Lexington, KY. Two more years of roving fill-in assignments followed, after which he went into semi-active retirement at Sarasota, FL. He was also the local superior there. He died of a heart attack in the local hospital. Interment took place at the Cornwells community cemetery.

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Archives 30B-30. His hospital diaries 32E-18 to -20