

Br. M. Remigius (Anton) Kney 71

United States of America Germany Nigeria

* December 24 1909 Billigheim, Palatinate

+ October 4 1981 Sarasota FL

He made his vows at Knechsteden December 12 1927 and worked there for three years before he was assigned to the team of German Spiritans who opened up a new mission in Nigeria's Benue region. Trained as a carpenter, he became an expert in many trades, including those of electrician and mechanic, while he was stationed at Makurdi in those pioneering days. With the outbreak of World War Two he was arrested, together with his German confreres, as an enemy alien and transported to an internment camp in Jamaica.

Released only in 1947, he came to the USA and was assigned to St. Emma Academy, Powhatan, VA. He served there for 25 years as an instructor in the electrical shop. Endowed with considerable artistic talent, he was also director of the school's brass band, which under his baton gave concerts as far away as New York. An expert photographer, he invented his own process of developing and printing color pictures. It was so good that major companies sent representatives to learn his "secret." As a ham radio operator, he had connections all over the world and for a time from part of a Spiritan communications network.

When he was struck by a severe heart attack, a Yale professor saved his life by a daring operation. Despite the restrictions that his condition imposed, he continued to work as much as he could, first at Ferndale and from 1975 on in Sarasota. He developed a new artistic talent in his retirement doing ceramics and enamelware and produced religious works for chapels and churches in many places. At the same time he served as an organist in a local church.

He was always ready to lend a helping hand, especially in assisting ailing confreres. As a professional electrician, however, he would flatly refuse to install equipment that would dangerously overload the system's capacity. This did not tend to endear him to bursars whose knowledge of electricity did not go much beyond connecting a plug with an outlet and who viewed his refusal as downright "disobedience."

A faithful religious, he learned Latin in his spare time so as to be able to follow the Mass before the vernacular came into use. He died suddenly of a heart attack on a Sunday morning while he was on the verge of driving to a church to play the organ. Interment took place at the Sharpsburg community cemetery.