

Fr. Vincent J. Niederberger 75 USA PR * February 26, 1924 Pittsburgh, PA + January 28, 2000 Canonsburg, PA

After attending the grade and high schools of St. Joseph's Parish in Mount Oliver, 1929-1940, he studied Latin and Greek at Duquesne's Preparatory School for one year and then transferred to Cornwells Heights for two years of college, 1941-1943. On July 16, 1944 he made his vows at Ridgefield, CT. He was ordained on February 17, 1950 at Ferndale, Norwalk, CT, where he had earned a B.A. in 1946 and a B.D. in 1950.

He was then assigned to Puerto Rico, where he worked for twenty-two years in the Spiritan parishes and their numerous secondary stations in the mountains: Arecibo (1950), Jayuya (1953), Toa Alta (1956), Hato Rey (1958), Orocovis (1966), Dorado (1970) and Arecibo (1971) - a dry list of places that hides the steady satisfactory service he had rendered for so many years that was taken for granted, since they did not result in papers for his personal file.

In 1970, however, he was named District Superior. It was not an easy time to hold that position when one considers that all kinds of new ideas were discussed and acted upon by the younger generation, which did not have the same respect for authority typical of the past. Not having kept up with new developments, he was viewed as too authoritarian. At this stage he became ill and was happy to be relieved of his position.

He was sent back to the mainland under the doctor's orders. By 1972 he was able to work again and serve as assistant at St. Mark's, Harlem, NY, and from 1974 at St. Ann's, Millvale, PA, followed by a brief stay at Immaculate Heart of Mary in Pittsburgh. He then asked to be assigned again to Puerto Rico in 1970; he served there at Arecibo until 1983.

Suffering from diabetes, he returned to the mainland. He was stationed at Immaculate Heart Parish in Pittsburgh. Restless, he still functioned briefly at several other places with interruptions for hospitalizations. In 1989 he became associate pastor at St. Anthony's, Millvale, until his retirement in 1993 at Bensalem's Spiritan Hall. But he loved Holy Spirit Parish - the successor of St. Anne and St. Anthony - and got permission to reside there.

By September 1999 he was in the rehabilitation center in Canonsburg. He died there on January 28, 2000 of complications arising from diabetes. Interment took place at the family plot in St. Joseph's Cemetery, Carrick, PA.

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