

Fr. Thomas John CLYNES 72 USA

\*April 17, 1913, Philadelphia

+December 27, 1985 Wheaton, MD

He grew up in his native town and studied at Cornwells 1929-34. After his profession at Ridgefield Aug. 15, 1935, he went to Ferndale for his senior studies. It was there also that he received the priesthood June 23, 1940.

World War Two prevented his departure for East Africa, and he was assigned instead to Sacred Heart, Detroit. In 1945 he became the first pastor of Holy Ghost Church, Detroit. Four years later, he had to give up his first love--which was serving the blacks, as he had done in Detroit, to take up the function of promoting the Congregation and its works. He held this position for the thirty-six remaining years of his life, residing first in Washington, D. C., and from 1979 on in nearby Wheaton, MD. His long tenure was a sign that he did this work to the full satisfaction of his superiors.

We may single out two events to illustrate this. During the Biafran War in Nigeria, 1969-70, he not only raised funds for relief but also actively participated in airlifting starving children out of the war zone. And in 1974 he conducted a very successful campaign for famine relief in Ethiopia.

Having earned the gratitude of the Congregation and many of its missions for his work, he died in Wheaton's hospital after a lingering illness.

His nine years of apostolic work among blacks in Detroit had given him a never-forgotten love for them. Having no closer relatives than cousins, he had asked that he be buried in Detroit. Interment took place there at Resurrection Cemetery.