

Fr. Jim Cunniffe, SCJ

1930-2007

In 2006, Fr. Jim Cunniffe was honored for his years of ministry. He was retiring not only as pastor of Holy Spirit parish in Hernando, Miss., but at 75 was retiring from full-time ministry. He was looking forward to an active retirement. But only a year later he suffered a massive stroke and died on August 30, 2007.

A Philadelphia native, Fr. Jim first came to the Priests of the Sacred Heart as a minor seminarian at Divine Heart Seminary in Donaldson, Ind. After graduation, he entered the novitiate and professed his first vows a year later in 1949.

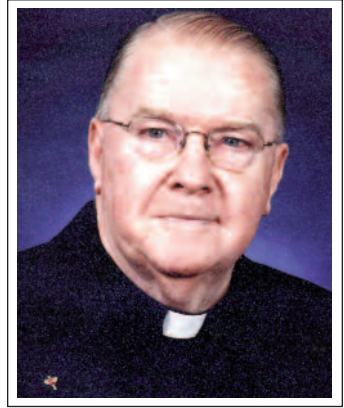
He started his seminary studies at Sacred Heart Monastery in Hales Corners, Wis., but went to Rome in 1954 to complete his STB and STL in theology at the Gregorian University. In 1957, he was ordained in Rome.

When he returned to the United States, Fr. Jim served at several of the province's seminaries. He taught at Sacred Heart Monastery and was rector of Dehon Seminary in Great Barrington, Mass.

In 1967, he moved from academics to parish ministry. He was pastor at Sacred Heart parish in Walls, Miss. Fr. Cunniffe also ministered at St. Denis in Louisville, Ky., Our Lady of Guadalupe in Houston, and St. Joseph's in Holly Springs, Miss., before moving to Canada in 1979, where he ministered at St. Rose of Lima parish in Toronto, St. Joan of Arc (also in Toronto) and St. Patrick parish in Caledonia, Ont. He was also superior of the SCJ community in Toronto.

In 1994, he returned to the United States and took up ministry once again in northern Mississippi. He served the parishes of Holy Spirit in Hernando and St. Gregory in Senatobia. From 1998 to 2005 he was director of parish ministries for Sacred Heart Southern Missions.

Following his retirement in 2006, Fr. Jim remained with the SCJ community in Nesbit, Miss. He was 77 years old at the time of his death.



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