

Fr. Rosalind Russell, SCJ

1946-1991

A native of Mississippi, Fr. Rosalind Russell, SCJ (or “Russ” as most called him), attended Sacred Heart Southern Missions’ Holly Family School (then, St. Mary’s) in Holly Springs, Miss.

In 1981, his ordination was held in the school’s gym with over 400 family members, friends and fellow alumni. The ordination was concelebrated by Bishops Joseph Brunni of Jackson and James Lykes, auxiliary of Cleveland.

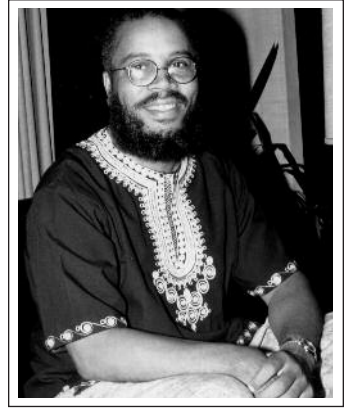
After ordination, Fr. Russ spent many years at St. Joseph’s Indian School in South Dakota, where he served as chaplain to the Native American students, as well as supervisor of the boys dorm.

He also ministered for a brief period at St. John’s Parish in Memphis, before leaving for health reasons in 1989. He was diagnosed with Leukemia.

An accomplished artist, Fr. Russ had a distinct style of sculpture. One of his exhibits, “Beings of Mother Earth,” a collection of masks and sculpture, was exhibited at the Colfax Cultural Center in South Bend, Ind., for a two-week run.

At his funeral, Fr. Tom Cassidy, SCJ, delivered the homily. Having worked with Fr. Russ for several years in South Dakota, he reflected on his illness. “On Russ’ casket is the Gospel — something he promised to proclaim. I believe in the last few months he did that most eloquently not by his words so much as by his simple living.

“I believe that for the last several months, Russ has been living in the Garden of Olives and that he was able to say, ‘Not my will, but yours be done.’”



Fr. Rosalind Russell, SCJ