

Fr. Thomas Sheehy, SCJ

1928-1994

“Fr. Tom Sheehy is a firm believer in putting his peace and justice ideals into practice.”

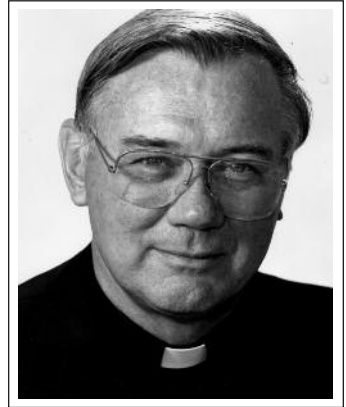
The quote, from a 1987 Pax Christi publication which featured Fr. Tom, aptly summarized the life of the SCJ priest.

Originally from Chicago, Fr. Tom joined the Priests of the Sacred Heart in 1955. He did his studies in philosophy and theology at Sacred Heart Seminary School of Theology, and studied Spanish at the Catholic University of Ponce, in Puerto Rico.

His first assignment after ordination was as prefect of students at St. Joseph’s Indian School in South Dakota. He was named provincial secretary in 1958, and in 1960, he became novice master at the SCJs’ novitiate in Ste. Marie, Ill. He remained there for three years until being named associate pastor of Our Lady of Guadalupe in East Chicago, Ind. He was known to boast that during his years as a priest he had served in four parishes honoring the patron saint of Mexico. In 1966, he headed to Divine Heart Seminary in Donaldson, Ind., where he spent two years as rector.

His next assignment, as pastor of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Raymondville, Texas, began a 25-year ministry to the people of Texas. He died of a heart attack while serving as pastor of Holy Name Parish in Houston

“For me, the whole idea of God’s love incarnate and how that should infuse our lives as religious, has been a real source of inspiration for me,” wrote Fr. Tom about his vocation several years before his death. “I especially find that my life is centered much more on the simplicity of the gospel rather than on the complexities of the institutional Church.”



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