

Fr. Kenneth Stoll, SCJ

1919-2001

“The Sacred Heart of Jesus gave me a great life and I wouldn’t exchange it for anything.”

The quote comes from Fr. Kenneth Stoll, SCJ, who was reflecting on his life shortly before moving into nursing care with complications from cancer. Fr. Ken died at the age of 81.

Originally from Buffalo, N.Y., Fr. Ken did his seminary studies at Sacred Heart Monastery (Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology) in Hales Corners, Wis. He professed his first vows with the Priests of the Sacred Heart in 1940 and was ordained to the priesthood in 1945 by Bishop Moses Kiley at St. John’s Cathedral, Milwaukee.

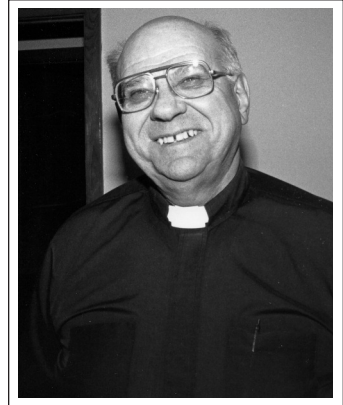
Fr. Ken devoted his life to parish ministry, first serving at Sacred Heart parish in Walls, Miss. He spent a year ministering at Our Lady of Guadalupe parish in Indiana Harbor, Ind. (now East Chicago), and then headed back to Mississippi to serve at St. Joseph’s parish in Holly Springs from 1949 until 1953.

Moving to South Dakota in 1953, he began a 10-year stint at All Saints church in Eagle Butte on the Cheyenne River Indian Reservation. But after that, it was back to Mississippi, where stayed.

From 1963 to 1967, he was at St. Joseph Church in Holly Springs; from 1967-1980 he served at St. James in Corinth and from 1981 until 1995, he was at St. Gregory the Great in Senatobia. At St. Gregory’s, he saw the parish grow from just a few families meeting at a rented location to a parish with its own, newly built church.

“We were celebrating our Sunday Masses in the Latvian Lutheran church,” he remembered, reflecting back on the construction of St. Gregory’s. “At one time, three religious groups used the Latvian church.”

After serving the community at St. Gregory’s, Fr. Ken retired, but remained with the Mississippi SCJ community.



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