

Fr. Augustus Olaf REITAN 74 USA

* Jan. 28, 1915, Hanoi, Vietnam + Oct. 10, 1989 Bethel Park, PA.

His father was a Norwegian marine engineer and his English mother was a French citizen, both had been living in various places in the Far East. They met and got married in Hongkong in 1913. Seven years later they settled in Philadelphia.

Their son attended high school at La Salle, Philadelphia, and St. Joseph's College, Princeton, N.J., before entering Cornwells in 1932 for three years of additional studies. He made his profession in Ridgefield August 15, 1936 and then went to Ferndale for philosophy and theology. He was ordained there June 20, 1941.

In 1942 he received his first assignment which was to St. Anthony's, Millvale, PA, as an assistant. Four years later, he became an assistant to Fr. Richard Ackerman, then national director of the Holy Childhood Association.

When Father Ackerman became Bishop Ackerman, Reitan succeeded him as the Association's national director in 1956. He held this important position till his resignation in 1972, having served the Association for twenty-six years.

Suffering from Parkinson's disease, he continued to render chaplain's services at a convent and hospital till 1981. By then he was suffering from a multitude of debilitating ailments, but still loath to accept that his active years were over.

Sent to St. Mary's, Sharpsburg, on a limited service status, he stayed there till, in 1984, he had to enter the community retirement facility at Bethel Park, PA. He died there in his sleep five years later. There were no family survivors. Burial took place in the community plot at the Sharpsburg cemetery.

USA-East Newsletter, Oct./Nov/. 1989 Archives 30A-22 to 23 and 35F-60 ff.