

Fr. Charles J. Coffey 84 USA SA
April 3, 1922 Scranton PA

May 22, 2006
+ Hemet CA

Fr. Charles J. Coffey, C.S.Sp., 84, died in his sleep May 22, 2006. He had recently been diagnosed with a heart valve problem after having difficulty during a walk. He decided not to undergo surgery to correct the problem, preferring to live with the limitations that his condition demanded. He was residing at Casa Laval in Hemet CA.

The vigil for the deceased was celebrated on Sunday, May 28 at Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Church, with Mass of Christian Burial concelebrated there at 11:00 a.m. on Monday, May 29. Burial followed at the Holy Ghost Fathers and Brothers Cemetery in Hemet CA.

Charles James Coffey was born on April 3, 1922 in Scranton PA, the son of Charles and Anna (McCann) Coffey, brother of Thomas Coffey of Starrucca PA and Mary Coffey of Whiting NJ. He attended St. John the Evangelist School in Scranton, St. Mary Gate of Heaven School in Ozon Park NY, and St. Joseph's Seminary in Callicoon NY. Charlie entered Holy Ghost Missionary College at Cornwells Heights in 1942. After completing the novitiate in Ridgefield CT he professed his first vows on August 15, 1945. In 1947 he completed his BA in Philosophy and in 1951 his BD in Theology at St. Mary's in Ferndale, CT. Fr. Charlie professed perpetual vows in Ferndale CT on August 15, 1948 and was ordained to the priesthood on June 2, 1950. On June 10, 1950 he made his Apostolic Consecration to the Apostolate.

After ordination Fr. Charlie was assigned as associate pro-tem at St. Mark's in Harlem NY for two months. From St. Mark's he went to the Junior Seminary in Ann Arbor MI until September 1955 when he went to Rock Castle VA. In 1956 he was assigned to Holy Ghost Church in Opelousas LA for three months before returning to Ann Arbor MI as assistant vocations director. In 1962 Fr. Charlie was assigned to Our Lady of the Valley in Hemet CA. In 1966 he became one of the founding members of the missionary team sent to Arequipa, Peru. In 1971 the members of the team left Peru in search of another mission, and after visiting the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe they settled in the Mexican Huasteca where Fr. Charlie stayed until 1977. Returning to San Antonio, TX Charlie pastored the community of St. Agnes for two years. Beginning in 1979, he served the Western Province as vocations director and mission procurator in Riverside CA for seven years. Fr. Charlie then returned to San Antonio TX for six months where he worked in a program for Ministry to Ministers. In March 1987 he went to Holy Ghost Church in Marksville LA as pastor for four years followed by five years as pastor of St. Bonaventure Church in San Antonio TX. In 1996 he became pastor of St. Mary's Cathedral Basilica in Galveston TX for two years before taking his last assignment as associate pastor of St. Benedict the Abbot Church in Houston TX. In October 1998 Fr. Charlie retired to Casa Laval where he remained active helping neighboring parishes, teaching bible study classes, maintaining contact

with people through the internet, and serving as chaplain to the San Carlos Mission Circle.