

Fr. Francis Anthony CHIARAMONTE 59 USA

\* May 16, 1930, Canonsburg, PA + Jan. 28, 1990 Bethel Park, PA

He attended the school of St. Mary's, Sharpsburg, PA, till in 1944 he could enter Cornwells. Six years later, he made his novitiate in Ridgefield, where he pronounced his first vows Aug. 22, 1951. After two years of philosophy at Ferndale, he was sent to Rome for higher studies in theology at the Gregorian University. He was also ordained there Dec. 22, 1956.

In later years he rounded out his theological studies by acquiring a professional degree in counseling and a doctoral degree in Religion and Psyschology.

On his return to the USA, he served one year at St. Mark's, New York, before being appointed to Notre Dame High School, Riverside, CA, in 1958. The following year he began to teach in Ferndale, where he stayed for three years.

His next appointment took him to Chicago as superior of the newly established Spiritan foundation serving the St. Francis de Sales High School. He was to remain there for eighteen years. He worked there as dean of students and school psychologist, becoming also its principal in 1972.

He displayed an impressive amount of activity also outside the school, lecturing in psychology at the Chicago State University and the De Paul University, and becoming deeply involved in community mental health programs, as well as in educational and religious associations and other groups in the metropolis. The Board of Directors of the Chicago School of Professional Psychologists and the Chicago's Community Mental Health Board elected him as their Chairman. He himself had organized this Board in 1965 when the city had no mental health centers. It built a score of them,

treating some 13,000 persons a month. And sixteen of these centers were in the poorest sections of the city.

In 1980, much to the regret of Chicago's archbishop Cardinal Cody, he was then called to establish the Holy Ghost Animation Center in Bethel Park, using the buildings of what had been the Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary. He remained its director for five years. It was a time of experimentation and divergence of views with the provincial administration about the way the center should be operated.

In 1985 he went to the Erie diocese, where he founded the Ecclesia Center for spiritual and psychological counseling for priests and religious and became its highly appreciated and revered director. At the same time, he preached many retreats for priests across the country--ten in the year 1985 alone. One of these was attended by 180 theologians from 36 dioceses at Mt. St. Mary's, Emmitsburg, MD, and another for theologians from 40 dioceses at the Josephinum in Ohio.

In late December 1989 physicians diagnosed widespread cancer and gave him only a few more weeks to live. He died prematurely in January. Burial was in the community plot of the St. Mary's, Sharpsburg, cemetery.