

Fr. Francis Bery (Edward) STOCKER 66 USA

\*Nov. 13, 1916, Detroit

+Dec. 31, 1982 Norwalk, Ct.

He grew up in his native town as a parishioner of St. Mary's and had attended the University of Detroit for two years when he applied for admission to the Congregation. Professed at Ridgefield, Aug. 25, 1937, he did his senior studies at Ferndale, where he was ordained June 19, 1942. Tall, handsome and endowed with an agreeable disposition, he also earned excellent notes for his religious spirit and potential for the good.

His first appointment was to St. Mark's, New York, where he served for six years. From 1949 to 1956 he was assistant mission procurator at the Washington, D.C., provincialate; then for two years he assisted in the national office of the Holy Childhood in Pittsburgh. In 1958 he became assistant pastor in St. James, Alexandria, LA. for two years.

Since the new junior seminary at Ann Arbor, MI needed a director of development, he accepted this function there in 1960. Four years later we find him in the same function at Ferndale. There he really got a chance to show his talents to raise funds for the Congregation and its works. An avid sportsman himself, he became well-known for his annual \$100 a plate Sports Dinners, attended by many big names in the world of sports. In 1973 he became officially the Congregation's mission procurator with residence in Ferndale.

Toward the end of December 1982 he wrote to national and various diocesan mission offices: "As of (January 1, 1983) I relinquish my position as mission procurator both with sadness and a heavy heart. My fight with cancer does not allow me the extra strength necessary for (this post)." Before any answer could reach him, he died on December 31. Interment took place at Cornwells.