

Fr. Joseph Andrew BEHR 68 USA TZA

* Jan 6, 1920, Sharpsburg, PA

Dec. 4, 1988, Westview, PA

He was one of the many boys who in the 1930's went from St. Mary's, Sharpsburg to the junior seminary of Cornwells, 1934-1939. Following his novitiate at Ridgefield, he pronounced his first vows there Aug. 15, 1941. For his philosophical and theological studies he went to Ferndale, where he was ordained June 4, 1946.

His first assignment took him in 1947 to East Africa's Kilimanjaro mission, where we find him listed as working in Kilema and Mashati. Chronic malaria cut down his stay there three years later.

Back in the USA, he served for five years as associate to the novice master in Ridgefield. In 1959 he went to Holy Ghost parish, New Orleans as an assistant, two years later to St. John Baptist in Tucson, AZ, and then in 1961 to St. Mary's, Detroit.

Transferred to the USA-West Province in 1964 he served the remainder of his life in southern missions. We find him as pastor for about three years each in Louisiana at our Lady of Lourdes, Abbeville, St. Paul's, Lafayette, and Sacred Heart, Lake Charles.

In 1973 he became pastor of the ancient Spiritan St. Joseph's parish Conway, AR, where he ministered for ten years. In 1984 he took up the pastorate of St. Anthony's, Natchitoches, LA., but illness caused him to resign three years later.

He spent some time in San Antonio, TX, then came North to the Pittsburgh area. He died there of cancer in his brother's home, Westview. Interment took place in the community plot of the St. Mary's cemetery, Sharpsburg.

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Archives 30B-5