

Fr. Joseph F. SWEENEY 82 U.S.A. P.R. USA
* December 23, 1913 Philadelphia

+ January 17, 1996 Hemet, CA

After attending Cornwells, 1929-34, he made his first vows on August 15, 1935 together with twelve others, at Ridgefield, CT. He did his philosophy and theology studies at Ferndale, Norwalk, CT, where he was ordained on June 22, 1940.

He received his first assignment in 1941 to the Kilimanjaro district of Tanzania, but World War Two prevented his departure and he was sent instead to Puerto Rico. He served there at Arecibo for five years, followed by three years at Juncos as pastor.

In 1950 he was recalled to the mainland to assume the position of novice master at Ridgefield. For seven years he introduced his novices there to the religious life of a Spiritan.

In 1957 he returned to Puerto Rico for nine years. We find him listed there specifically as pastor in Hato Rey at the parish of San José Obrero until 1961, then in Salinas as pastor of N.S. de la Monserrate until 1964 and in Toa Alta, as assistant at San Fernando Rey in 1966.

Two years later he went to Bakersfield, CA, as assistant at Our Lady of Guadalupe parish until in 1970 he became pastor of St. Agnes parish in San Antonio, TX, for six years. Both parishes served mainly Hispanic people.

He then became mission procurator and director of vocations at Denver, CO, and San Antonio, TX, until 1981. During those years he suffered much from his artificial hip replacement, as he had to travel long distances in his car, but he bore it without complaining.

After serving as assistant for one year at Indio, CA, he went on sick leave at Gilman Hot Springs, CA, until 1984. Thereafter he was in semi-retirement, still helping out as much as he was able to at San Antonio, TX and Indio, CA, until full retirement at Hemet, CA. In 1990 he celebrated his golden jubilee of his ordination there.

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An affable man, endowed with a beautiful singing voice, he loved company and was a fine host. For recreation he enjoyed card games and golf. While officially retired since 1989, he still functioned as superior of the Hemet retirement community and as such was very considerate of his fellow retirees.

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