

Fr. Norman G. HANNAHS 70 USA
* January 12, 1927 Camden NJ

November 5, 1997 Detroit

After graduating from Morristown High School in 1945, he was drafted for military service. He briefly served in Korea, where he was promoted to acting platoon sergeant and earned a World War Two Victory Medal. He then attended St. Joseph's College in Philadelphia, where he earned a Bus. Ad. degree and did his philosophy studies.

Highly recommended, he applied for admission to the Congregation in 1951, made his first vows at Ridgefield on October 11, 1952 and was ordained at Ferndale on June 7, 1956, at the age of 29.

After serving for two years at St. John's parish in Tucson AZ, he became assistant vocation director in 1959, stationed at Washington DC, but the following year he was promoted to vocation director, while residing at Holy Childhood in Pittsburgh. From 1968 on he functioned as director of students and later also as superior of the Immaculate heart of Mary Collegiate Seminary in Bethel Park. When this school was closed, he became pastor of St. Ann's in suburban Millvale PA in 1975. He proved to be a very popular pastor, as was evident from the long list of petitioners asking that he be retained as such in 1989 when he was transferred to St. Mary's in Detroit. As usual, however, the petitions did not lead to the desired result.

At Old St. Mary's also he was a good pastor, who made many fast friends both among his parishioners and beyond them in the city. When on Good Friday 1994 fire struck the church, he meticulously restored it to its pristine condition. The preceding year the parish had celebrated the centennial of service of the Holy Ghost Fathers at St. Mary's.

One anecdote about him deserves to be mentioned. On a surprise visit to his aging mother at 10:00 PM, he greeted her affectionately saying "Hi Gracie Baby" when she opened the door. As she exclaimed "Oh my God!" he replied, "No, Mom, just your son, Norman."

Hospitalized for an aneurysm, he died of complications following surgery on November 5, 1997. Funeral services were held at St. Mary's on November 8. Interment took place at the community cemetery in Cornwells Heights Pa.

Newsletter C.S.Sp. USA East Dec. 1997

Arch 29-E-53