

Rev. Phillip R. Howard, C.S.Sp.

Fr. Phillip R. Howard, C.S.Sp., died suddenly on Tuesday, December 4, 2012 in New York City at the age of 67. He suffered a massive coronary at St. Mark's Parish in Harlem.

Just days before his death, Fr. Howard was able to enjoy a wonderful weekend celebration in Charleston, SC, marking the 175th anniversary of St. Patrick's Parish, where he served as pastor from 1992-1995. He was, in fact, the last Spiritan pastor who worked there until the Spiritans turned the parish over to the diocese in 1995. Fr. Howard and Fr. Bill Headley, CSSp, joined Bishop Guglielmone, Ordinary of Charleston, and the current pastor of St. Patrick's, Fr. Henry Kulah, for the major liturgy on Sunday. It was evident, according to Fr. Bill Headley, that "the people truly embraced him, were glad to see him and saw him as integral to the celebration. And, he gave himself to it as fully as he was able. Here was a beloved pastor returning for one last - though we did not know it - victory lap."

Fr. Howard was a member of the Province of Trinidad. He did ministry both in Trinidad and Asuncion, Paraguay prior to coming to the United States. He worked in various parishes in the States including St. Joseph's in Bay City, MI (1991-1992), St. Patrick's in Charleston, SC (1992-1995), and St. Mary Magdalene in Chicago, IL (1995-1998). He travelled to Toronto, Canada in 1998 where he ministered until 2002. Upon his return to the States he served in St. Benedict the Abbot and St. Joseph's in Houston, TX (2002-2005), Our Lady of the Valley in Hemet, CA (2005-2011), and since May 2011 as Pastor at St. Mark's in Harlem, NY.

Father Howard is survived by three sisters, Annette Howard, Edith Whittier and Yvette Rabgir, extended family members and many friends in the US, Trinidad, Canada and Paraguay.

The Archbishop of Port of Spain, Joseph Harris, C.S.Sp., presided at the funeral liturgy that was celebrated at St. Mark's Church in Harlem on Saturday, December 15, at 11:00 AM. A viewing took place at St. Mark's on Friday, December 14 from 6-9:00 PM and on Saturday morning from 9-10:30 AM.