

Fr. John Regis (Charles) GUTHRIE 83 USA P.R.

*Sept. 8, 1901 Pittsburgh

+Sept. 29, 1984 Bethel Park, PA.

After spending nine years at DU Prep School and College, he entered the Ridgefield novitiate, where he made his profession Aug. 27, 1926. He studied theology at Ferndale, and was ordained there Aug. 31, 1929.

The following year he became part of the pioneering group which inaugurated the Spiritan missions in Puerto Rico. He labored there hard but happily in this neglected part of the Lord's vineyard. His home leave of 1939 was typically spent pinch hitting in various places.

Before he could return to Puerto Rico, his life took a new direction. In January 1940 he became provincial treasurer, a function which he would hold for 14 years. Next, he was raised to the status of first provincial assistant, and he continued in this function for another 13 years under several provincial superiors. Finally, in 1967 he became local superior of the provincial house and served as such for 12 years.

He spent the remaining nine years of his life, first in semi-active retirement at the Holy Childhood Pittsburgh residence from 1975 on, and then, as his infirmities increased, in and out of hospitals. He still managed to spend some time at Dorseyville and from 1983 at Bethel Park. It is there that he died.

When he left the provincial house, where he had dwelled so long, Fr. Philip Haggerty, then Provincial wrote: "The three words which were spoken most often during the past 35 years were probably: 'Ask Father Guthrie'." Virtually everyone of the 50 Spiritan provinces and mission districts throughout the world sooner or later had recourse to him and received all the assistance he could render. With St. Paul he could say: "I have become everything to all."