

Fr. Robert Joseph EBERHARDT 78 USA P.R. IT

* May 2, 1910 Philadelphia

+ June 26, 1988 San Antonio, TX

After attending Catholic High School in his hometown, he entered Cornwells in 1926. His profession took place in Ridgefield July 25, 1932. In between his philosophy and theology at Ferndale, he prefected for one year at DU. His ordination took place at Ferndale Sept. 15, 1938.

His first assignment took him to Puerto Rico in 1939; he was destined to work there some thirty-six years. We find him at Arecibo and from 1940 in Hato Rey. Three years later he became pastor there and built a beautiful church and a large school.

In 1956 he became the head of all Spiritan missions in Puerto Rico, which just then had been united into an autonomous district. He held this position for three consecutive three-year terms.

In 1969 the General Chapter elected him as one of the Congregation's general councillors, and he had to move to Rome. Illness caused him to resign in 1971, but he could return to his beloved Puerto Rico.

His long and faithful service there came to an end in 1975 when he came back to the mainland and went to work for one year in the province's promotion office, Silver Spring, MD. However, he desired to make his waning years useful to the Hispanics in the USA and obtained his transfer to the USA-West Province. It assigned him first to St. Agnes, San Antonio, TX, and then to St. Catherine, Riverside, CA.

His retirement began in 1979 at St. Anthony's in the same city. When his health began to falter seriously in 1985, he entered the Padua Place retirement home for priests in San Antonio, TX. He died three years later of a heart attack. Interment took place at the Cornwells community cemetery.