

Fr. Thomas Howard CONNER 72 USA P.R.

\* June 12, 1917, Sharpsburg, PA

+ May 27, 1990 Pittsburgh

He came from a very large family and was one of the many boys of St. Mary's, Sharpsburg, who in the 1930's went to Cornwells to study for the priesthood. After six years there, he made his profession in Ridgefield, Aug. 15, 1938. Going on to Ferndale, he followed the philosophy and theology programs and was ordained there June 18, 1943.

The following year he received the first and only assignment of his active life. It sent him to Puerto Rico, where he would labor for 43 years. He began at Hato Rey as an assistant and then in 1956 became its pastor. In his twenty-two years there he and his confreres built one of the finest elementary and high schools in the San Juan area.

In 1966 he became pastor in the more rural environment of Juncos. Here, too, he started a school and laid the foundation of catechetical centers and chapels in the country side.

In 1971 we find him as an assistant in Dorado. New chapels arose as he went around there and he built also a retreat house and parish center.

Worn out by his labors, he became ill and had to return to the mainland. On his departure, Cardinal Aponte of San Juan said to him: "I personally and the whole archdiocese are greatly indebted to you for all you have done."

Taking up residence at the Vincentian Home in Pittsburgh, he died there of cancer three years later. Burial was in the community plot of the Sharpsburg cemetery.

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