

Br. Anthony (William Clarence) CONLEY 83 USA P.R.

* March 3, 1901 Staten Island, N.Y. + Nov. 26, 1984 Pittsburgh

He grew up in his native town and after High School attended a trade school and later also an engineering college. Then he went to work first for the Consolidated Edison Electric Company of New York and then for the U.S. Navy. Taking care of his mother, he remained a bachelor until she died. Then 33 years old, he married a non-Catholic girl in 1934 and became the father of three children. His wife, however, divorced him in 1949, one of her reasons being that he insisted too rigorously on the Catholic education of their children.

This event turned his attention back to his earlier desire to join a religious order. He made his application in 1950. Of course, it was not the first time that a married man had wanted to enter the religious life. For example, the father of the three Danner brothers who became Spiritans had successfully done so before him. In Anthony's case, however, an enormous amount of paperwork was involved in settling the conditions demanded by the Holy See before an indult granted him permission to do so as a lay brother.

While waiting for this indult, he had gone to Ridgefield and received permission to become an agree with private vows in 1953. It was only on August 15, 1961 that he could be duly professed in the Brothers' novitiate of Richmond, MI.

Before his profession he had served in Ridgefield, Ferndale and St. Emma Academy, Powhatan, VA.; his first appointment after it sent him to Puerto Rico, where he worked for three years in general maintenance. On his return he taught and supervised apprentice electricians at St. Emma. In

1966 we find him in Ridgefield and from 1968 on in Ferndale. By then he was in his late sixties and, as his involvement in physical work diminished, he did not remain idle, but became a zealous pastoral visitor of the sick, the shut-ins and the aged in nursing homes.

In 1979 he retired to Stella Maris, Sarasota, FL, still trying to serve to the best of the waning abilities. Needing constant care himself, he entered the Vincentian Home for the Aged in Pittsburgh in 1982. There he died in his sleep. Interment took place at the Cornwells community cemetery.

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