

Fr. Arnold A. HUMPERT 82 NGA PR

* January 12, 1911 Menden, Westphalia

+ December 29, 1993 Salinas, PR

He did his classical studies at Menden, 1922-31 before making his vows at Heimbach on April 10, 1933. For his philosophy and theology he went to Knechtsteden, where he was ordained on April 24, 1938.

The following year he could sail for the Onitsha Vicariate in Nigeria, a few months before World War Two broke out. Considering him and some 30 other German Spiritan confreres enemy aliens, the local authorities interned them. On November 6, 1940 they were shipped across the Atlantic to an internment camp in Jamaica. It took until January 1947 before 19 of them, including Fr. Humpert, were released and could fly to the United States. The others were repatriated to Germany some time later.

In May 1947 Fr. George Collins, who had worked very hard to get them released, assigned him to Puerto Rico. He labored there with great zeal and energy for over forty years. He was stationed successively as an assistant at Toa Alta and in 1965 at Bayaney after a six months' interim pastorate at Santana.

From 1969 on we find him again as an assistant at El Coto for a few months and then at Salinas for eight years. His final assignment was as an assistant on the off shore island of Vieques. He continued serving there even after his retirement in 1987 at the age of 76.

The following year he could celebrate his golden jubilee there and in Salinas. He felt too frail to go to Germany for its celebration, but the bishop of Paderborn, his home diocese, sent him congratulations and a cheque for 10,000 German Marks --about \$6,000-- to be used for the Congregation's work in Puerto Rico. The American Provincial also sent him a personal donation of \$100, as usual on such occasions, but characteristically Father put it at once in the community fund, saying

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that he did not believe in private funds. He did the same with the \$150 he received in 1993 on the occasion of the diamond jubilee of his profession, giving it to the Spiritan senior seminary in Puerto Rico.

His final years were spent at Salinas, where he died peacefully. Interment took place the following day in the Santa Cruz cemetery at Arecibo.

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