

Fr. Charles Paul CONNORS 80 USA F IT PRU PR
* October 30, 1912 Pittsburgh

+ April 6, 1993 Dorado PR

He graduated from Duquesne Prep. in 1929 and earned a B.A. at its college in 1933. Fr. William O'Donnell and the future Fr. Francis Schillo attracted him to the Congregation. Professed on July 31, 1934 at Ridgefield, CT, he studied theology at Ferndale and was ordained there on September 8, 1937.

The following year he was sent to Rome to study canon law at the Gregorian University. World War Two forced him back to the USA in 1939. He then served as an assistant in St. Mark's, in the Harlem section of New York till 1942.

Transferred to Washington, D.C, he earned his doctorate in canon law at the Catholic University in 1944, while also serving as mission procurator of the Province till 1949.

He then functioned as professor of canon law at Ferndale for ten years. In 1962 he was elected to the Congregation's General Council and, as such, he went to reside in Paris. When the generalate transferred to Rome in 1966, he moved to the Eternal City. It was a difficult time, as the church in the 1960s went through the transition from a medieval Church to a Church in the Modern World. This transition caused many dislocations and problems which made life especially uneasy for those holding positions of authority, and he had his share of them.

After the election of a new Superior General in 1968, he returned to the U.S.A. and took part in American Spiritan mission to Peru in 1969. Illness caused his return to the U.S.A. in 1970.

He served then for three years as Provincial Superior of the USA-East Province. When his term of office was over, he became pastor of the Immaculate Conception parish at Vieques, PR. In 1979 he was elected District Superior in Puerto Rico by his confreres, and re-elected in 1982. As such, he was also very active in promoting Puerto Rican vocations to the Congregation and the establishment of the necessary structures for a future province there.

Having celebrated the golden jubilee of his priesthood in 1987, he continued to live at the District's headquarters in Dorado. He died there suddenly of heart failure. Interment took place at the Porta Coeli cemetery in Bayamon.

He authored professional articles about canon law, as well as promotional brochures and he was inevitably involved in some controversies about both theory and practice. His dedication to the Church and to the Congregation, however, was unquestioned. Through all the years he remained a very congenial confrere and priest, held in high regard by many.

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