

Fr. John Edward KINGSTON 81 USA P.R.

*Dec. 29, 1903 Hoisington, KA

+ April 29, 1985 Hato Rey, P.R.

He attended St. Benedict's High School and two years of its college, 1920-26, before applying for admission to the Congregation. Accepted, he made his vows at Ridgefield Aug. 15, 1927, then did six years of studies at Ferndale. There on Sept. 17, 1932 he became a priest forever.

His first appointment sent him to Puerto Rico, where he was to spend over half a century in ministry. We find him listed at many of the Spiritan missions there, starting from Arecibo. In 1940 he returned to the mainland for about one year during which he resided at St. Peter Claver, Wichita, KA.

Returning to Puerto Rico, he became pastor at Barceloneta till 1948, next at Rio Grande till 1955, and then at Arecibo. From 1961 on we find him at Hato Rey, where he also spent his retirement years, still active and residing at the Holy Childhood residence.

A few months before his death, one evening as he returned to his residence, an armed young man held him up demanding his money. Father made a palms-up gesture, saying, "I don't have any. I'm a Catholic priest." The startled would-be robber looked him in the face, mumbled "okay" and then vanished into the darkness. "Even a thief has a conscience," Father concluded.

He died quietly in Hato Rey without any symptoms of illness, leaving nearly his entire considerable estate to the Congregation for its works. His priesthood had always been his most-valued treasure. A man of strong convictions, he was deeply committed to the Church and to the Congregation, as well as attached to the people he had come to serve. Interment took place at Hato Rey.