

Fr. Edward T. Crowley, C.S.Sp., died on Tuesday evening, November 5, 2002 in Ireland while on vacation with his family. Fr. Crowley was 80 years old at the time of his passing.

Fr. Crowley was born on January 11, 1922, in Askeaton, County Limerick, Ireland. He joined the Congregation of the Holy Ghost after completing his secondary studies at the **Spiritan's Rockwell College, with his profession of vows on 8 August 1941 at Kilshane.** After completing his college and philosophy studies at the National University of Ireland in Dublin and his theological studies at the Holy Ghost Missionary College (Kimmage) in Dublin, he was ordained to the Priesthood at Clonliffe on 23 December 1950.

Fr. Crowley was appointed to serve in the missions of Africa beginning in 1951 until 1958 as a teacher and in pastoral ministry in the Owerri Diocese of Eastern Nigeria. In 1958 until 1966 he continued on in these same ministries but this time in the Limuahia Diocese of Eastern Nigeria. Due to health setbacks Fr. Crowley was assigned to parish ministry in England in 1966, first at Scunthorpe in the Nottingham Diocese for one year, then to Dartford, in the Southwark Diocese for three years. In 1970 he came to the United States for treatment of his reoccurring illnesses from his time in Africa. His goal was to regain vigor in order to return to Africa where he had hoped to work in Ghana. Doctors refused, due to his precarious health. After serving in parish ministry at Incarnate Word Church in New Orleans, LA from 1970 until 1973, Fr. Ned joined the Western Province of the Congregation and served the remaining years of his religious-missionary life in diverse parish ministries, first at the immense Latino parish of Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in Bakersfield for seven years, then in 1980 at St. John the Evangelist Church and the Veterans Administration Hospital, in Tucson, AZ. In 1982 he began his ministry among the African-American faith communities in the South when he was appointed pastor first of St. Anthony Church in Natchitoches, LA, then in 1984 to St. James Church in Alexandria, LA. **Fr. Crowley's health became more fragile, so in 1986 he was relieved when the Provincial** asked him to serve as parochial vicar at St. Joseph Church in Conway, AR. It was there that he contributed to a thriving parish life while always reaching out to the sick, the poor, the lonely and the aged. Even once officially retired (in 1988) he served the Spiritan community in Conway as bursar, and always supported the mission there and throughout the Province through his intercessory prayer. Fr. Ned was a quiet, humble, and devout Holy Ghost Father who served our Lord with lifelong dedication. This was shown in his fervor, charity and, especially in his many sufferings, in his great sacrifice.

Requiescat in pace!