

Fr. Francis W. Wright, C.S.Sp. of Bethel Park, a member of the Congregation of the Holy Spirit, died November 12, 2014. He was 92 years old.

Father Wright has born July 24, 1922 in Floral Park NY. He professed his vows as a member of the Congregation of the Holy Spirit on July 16, 1944 at Holy Ghost Novitiate in Ridgefield, CT and was ordained to the Priesthood June 3, 1949 at St. Mary's Seminary, Ferndale in Norwalk CT.

During his 67 years of priestly ministry Fr. Wright served the Congregation as Assistant Vocation Director (1950-1955), Director of the Holy Spirit Fathers Apostolic College, Bensalem PA (1955-1960), Vocation Director (1960-1964) and Mission Procurator (1964-1973). In 1973 Fr. Wright was named National Director of Holy Childhood Association in Pittsburgh PA. In 1981 he moved the headquarters to Washington DC and held the role of National Director for twenty-eight years. Upon his departure from the Holy Childhood Association, Bishop Joseph A. Fiorenza, former president of the U.S. Conference stated: "Father Francis Wright has shown untiring service in his efforts of educating children of the importance of missions of the world. A key step toward achieving world peace in the future is educating youngsters now about their peers in developing nations. Through the Holy Childhood, Father Wright has worked toward this noble goal. The bishops of the United States are grateful to him and to his religious order for this dedicated service." In 2001 in recognition of his outreach to youth, Fr. Wright received the Papal Award, Cross Pro Eccelsiae et Pontifice, for his many years of dedicated service to the Association. From 2001 until he retired to Libermann Hall, Bethel Park in 2013, Fr. Wright helped with ministry in parishes of St. Matthew, Forestville CT, St. Patrick, Bay Shore NJ, Holy Family, Hicksville, NY, and Our Lady of Guadalupe, Brooklyn NY.

There will be viewing in the Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel at the Spiritan Center, 6230 Brush Run Road, Bethel Park on Monday, November 17 from 3:00-5:00 PM. The remains will be transported to Bensalem PA for viewing, Mass and Burial at Holy Ghost Fathers Cemetery in Bensalem PA.

Fr. Wright was preceded in death by his parents William and Catherine Lacken Wright, his sister, Mildred Juda and his brother Ralph. He is survived by his nephews, Michael Juda and Ian Broderick extended family members and many friends both here and abroad.