

Fr. Francis Daniel Xavier O'REILLY 77 USA TZA

* April 4, 1910, Waterbury, CT

+ Jan. 4, 1988, Hemet, CA

After four years at Cornwells, he made his novitiate at Ridgefield, where he pronounced his first vows July 25, 1931. For his senior studies he went to Ferndale, and he was ordained a priest there Sept. 7, 1936.

The following year he received his first appointment, which sent him to Kilimanjaro in present-day Tanzania. He resided there till 1948 in Uru, Gare and Tanga, while also serving the many missions attached to these places.

On leave in the USA in 1948, he worked at St. Christopher's, Tiverton, RI, paying special attention to teenagers. Obtaining permission to return to Africa, he began his second tour of duty there in Uru and then in Kishimundu, Useri, Naruma and Mbosho. Home on leave again in 1957, he received an appointment to St. Anne's, Millvale, PA, but in 1960 he could begin his third tour in Africa. This one lasted only two years.

Back in the USA, he ministered at St. Catherine's, Riverside, CA, for four years before being appointed pastor of Our Lady of the Valley, Hemet, CA. A new church arose there while he was pastor. During his California years he became well-known for his successful work with alcoholics. In 1974 he took over the pastorate of St. Joseph's in the Soboba Indian Mission of San Jacinto, CA.

Retiring to San Diego in 1978, he returned two years later to Hemet, CA, where he was to spend his remaining years, still quite active. He could still commemorate there his golden jubilee as a priest in 1986.

Suffering from Alzheimer's disease he died of a stroke in his sleep. Burial was at the community cemetery in Hemet, CA.