

Fr. Gerhard A. SEIFRIED 86 GERMANY NGA P.R.
*August 22, 1912 Donaueschingen, Baden

+ January 5, 1999 Dorado

Like other junior seminarians of the Congregation, he received his education at the local gymnasium, 1922-31, and made his first vows on April 10, 1934 at Heimbach. In his final year of theology at Knechtsteden, he was ordained there on April 24, 1938.

The following year he was assigned to Nigeria's vicariate of Onitsha. His stay there was brief as World War Two began in 1939. All German nationals were at once interned, first locally and then shipped across the Atlantic to Jamaica. It was only in 1947 that he and eighteen confreres out of the twenty-nine German Spiritans were released and allowed to go to the U.S.A. thanks to the vigorous efforts of Fr. George Collins. The others were sent back to Germany.

After a few months of rest, he received his appointment to Puerto Rico and was stationed at San Fernando Parish at Toa Alta as one of the four Fathers working there. At that time they had to take care also of the parishes in Toa Baja and Dorado. A total of twenty-one rural missions were attached to the three parishes; so there was plenty of work to keep all Fathers very busy. In 1951, however, Dorado's San Antonio parish received resident personnel and he was sent there as one of its two assistants, serving also its eight rural missions. In 1955 he became pastor of San Pedro Parish in Toa Baja with its four missions.

After a year in Arecibo's San Felipe cathedral, he became in 1965 pastor of N.S. de la Monserrate Parish in Salinas, where for many years Fr. Arnaldo Humpert served as his assistant, followed later by Fr. Walter Mastalerz. They had to take care also of ten missions among the people in dirt-poor rural areas. Only a few of these missions had a

chapel; so he was very happy when the U.S.A. East Province sent him \$5,000 to assist in the building of additional chapels.

Having been its pastor for twenty-two years, he resigned in 1987, but continued to reside there until in 1990 he went to live at the district's house in Dorado. Two years later, however, he moved to N.S. del Carmen Parish in Barceloneta, which the Congregation had accepted to staff again until 1998, as companion to Fr. Thomas Sharkey, its pastor.

He then definitively retired to the Dorado district house. He celebrated his diamond jubilee as a priest in 1998, having served more than half a century in Puerto Rico as a hard-working and self-effacing priest.

Death came to him at the age of eighty-six. Interment took place at the Porta Caeli Cemetery in Bayamon.