

Fr. Henry C. SCHOMING 81 USA

\*September 5, 1918, Millvale, PA

+ December 16, 1999 Bethel Park, PA

He was one of the many boys from the Pittsburgh area who in 1931 went to the junior seminary in Cornwells Heights, PA. Even then at the age of 13 he was tall and heavy. When he was fully grown he would be over six feet tall and weigh around 250 pounds. His weight did not prevent him from excelling in sports. Intellectually also he was well endowed and became the best student in his class. In due course he made his novitiate at Ridgefield, CT, where he was professed on August 15, 1938. He had accidentally become organist there when the young man who held this position left and the novice master found him sitting at the piano. He was at once promoted to organist and quickly learned to play.

Ordained on June 19, 1943, he graduated with a B.A. and a B.D. in 1944. Later he would also earn a M.A. in history and a M.A. in classics at the University of Pennsylvania. He also spent some time in Canada to become more fluent in French.

His first assignment sent him to North Tiverton, RI for one year as assistant pastor, followed by a year at Holy Ghost Parish in Chippewa Falls, WI. Late in 1946 he arrived in Cornwells Heights, where he taught Latin, Greek and French until 1960. After serving for a few months at St. Paul's, Lafayette, LA, as assistant pastor he joined the Classic Department of Duquesne University in January 1961, where he served faithfully and competently for twenty-four years until his retirement in 1984.

His personal dossier in the archives for his active years is exceedingly small: just a few letters about appointments; not even one complaint by him or about him as he wended his cheerful and religious ways through life.

People sensed that he was easy to talk with and readily came to him with their woes and for confessions. When he was retired in Sarasota a trickle of priests began to come to him for the Sacrament of Reconciliation, but his reputation as a very good

confessor spread and for many of the clergy he became the preferred Father Confessor in the area.

His retirement years were spent at Stella Maris Community in Sarasota, FL, where he substantially aided a Slovakian refugee family who had settled there. In 1998 increasing infirmity caused his transfer to Bethel Park, PA. He died peacefully there. Interment took place in the community cemetery near Sharpsburg, PA.

Arch C.S.Sp. USA 13e-44