

Fr. Jacob Gilbert GROSSMAN 77 NIG JAMAICA P.R.

* Aug. 9, 1908 Stolberg, Germany

+ Feb. 22, 1986 Juncos, P.R.

He entered the junior seminary of Broich in 1922 and from there went to Knechtsteden for an additional twelve years of study, 1926-39. They were interrupted by his novitiate at Heimbach, where he made his first vows April 9, 1933. He was ordained in Knechtsteden April 24, 1938.

His first appointment was to Nigeria in 1939, but World War Two began soon after his arrival and led to his internment as an enemy alien, first locally and then on the island of Jamaica. It was only two years after the war ended that he and sixteen of his confreres were freed and allowed to come to the USA--thanks to the persistent efforts of Fr. George Collins.

In May 1947 he received his assignment to Puerto Rico. Nigeria's loss became the island's gain, for he was to spend there 39 years in distinguished service to the people and to the Congregation. We find him listed there in pastoral work at Arecibo, Rio Grande and Juncos. In addition he served as District Superior, 1965-70 and from 1979 to 1984 as superior of the Spiritan seminary of Bayamon.

After a lingering illness he died of pulmonary complications. Interment took place at the community plot in the Santa Cruz cemetery of Arecibo.

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