

30C-87-2

Fr. Joseph Ladislaus VARGA 74 USA TZA

\* March 23, 1919 Bridgeport, CT

+ March 30, 1993 Pittsburgh

Of Hungarian descent, he entered the Congregation's junior seminary at Comwells in 1932. He made his profession at Ridgefield, CT, on August 15, 1939, went to Ferndale for his higher studies, and was also ordained there on June 16, 1944.

On July 6, 1945 he could sail from Brooklyn, NY, to East Africa. Bp. Joseph Byrne of the Kilimanjaro vicariate sent him to Singa-Chini to learn the language and become acquainted with African customs. Later we find him in Rombo and Arusha.

In 1952 he was at Duquesne University to earn his Master's degree in education. Returning to Tanganyika, he then taught at St. James Seminary in Kilema-Chini and at the Umbwe secondary school, where he became headmaster. Staff trouble led to his resignation in 1960.

He was then transferred to the University of London's Institute for Oriental and African Languages in order to prepare himself for replacing Fr. Alphonse Loogman at Duquesne's Institute for African Affairs as a teacher of Swahili.

From 1962 till the end of his life he taught that language at Duquesne. When government cuts in grants closed the Institute, he could continue to teach it under the aegis of the Department of Modern Languages. At the same time, he headed the African Documentation Center at the Duquesne library and was active in various Third World concerns.

From 1976 to 1982 he also served as local superior of the Duquesne Spiritan community, and from 1984 to 1991 as pastor of St. Stanislaus' parish.

He died of heart failure a few days after entering Mercy Hospital for a routine test. Interment took place at the Spiritan plot of St. Mary's, Sharpsburg, PA, cemetery.

Pittsburgh Post Gazette, April 1, 1993

Archives 30C-87