

Fr. Stanislaus J. GRONDZIEWSKI 81 USA

* October 9, 1912 Pittsburgh

+ August 21, 1994 Bensalem, PA

He transferred from Pittsburgh Central High School to the Spiritan junior seminary at Cornwells in 1928 and made his vows at Ridgefield on August 15, 1935. For his senior studies he went to Ferndale, where he earned two bachelor's degrees. On November 11, 1941 he was ordained there.

He was destined to spend his half century of active service in only two locations: Our Mother of Consolation in Mount Carmel, PA, and the Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Pittsburgh. His first assignment took him to Mount Carmel as an assistant. He served there for fourteen years.

In 1955 he became pastor of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish. At that time it was a very busy parish with a staff of four priests. He was only forty-three at the time, which was then still rather young for such an important position, but the bishop had asked for a younger man than usual, and Fr. Stan met with his approval. He worked there for eleven years.

In 1966 he returned to the Mount Carmel Parish as an assistant to Fr. Frederick Lachowsky. At the same time, he was also bursar of the local community, a function which he fulfilled very conscientiously, earning the gratitude of the provincial. He remained there for twenty-three years.

In 1989 he entered the Bensalem retirement community of the Congregation. He could celebrate the golden jubilee of his priesthood there. As his infirmities increased, he was transferred to a nearby nursing home. He died there of cancer. Interment took place at the local Spiritan community cemetery.

What is remarkable about Fr. Stan is that in his long years of ministry he never complained about anyone, not even when he was "demoted" in 1966 to being an assistant after being a pastor. Unobtrusively he did his duties as a humble priest and religious.

One thing may be mentioned. Among his hobbies was a large set of toy trains. In the Christmas Season his display of them around the crib drew visitors from all around the area of Mount Carmel.

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