

In Memoriam



If Fr. Francis X. Hanley were to wear his degrees and honors on his sleeve, he would need to have a very long arm. The first honor he received, however, was the greatest of them all when soon after his birth on April 23, 1931, he received a share of God's own life as he was baptized Francis Xavier at St. Paul's parish in Wilmington, DE.

It was also there at St. Paul's that he first started scaling the heights of learning by attending the parish primary school from 1937 to 1945. During the next four years he completed his secondary education at the Salesianum. Then in 1950 he took his first step in becoming a Spiritan by enrolling in the Holy Ghost Missionary Seminary. In 1953 he started his novitiate year at Ridgefield and was professed in 1954. Following two years of studying philosophy and four years of theology at Ferndale in Norwalk, CT, he was ordained a priest on June 4, 1959, and made his Apostolic Consecration on June 6, 1960. Then followed a fifth year of theology at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, PA.

In August of 1961 Fr. Hanley returned to the Spiritan Junior Seminary at Cornwells Heights, but this time as a staff member. In August of 1968 he became headmaster of the school. By then he was well qualified for the position. He received his B.A., B.D., M.Ed. and M.A. in Religious Education and in Health Care Ethics. Then in the late 1970's Fr. Hanley gained two doctorates – one in Education from the Walden University in 1975 and the other in Educational Administration at the University of Pittsburgh in 1979. He also had a number of certificates, but the one he loved to use is the one in sign language. Actually, Fr. Hanley was the co-founder of the Duquesne Apostolate for the Deaf which is now the Pittsburgh Catholic Office for the Deaf.

In August of 1983 he was appointed a member of the Spiritans International Novitiate Team in Quebec, Canada, and on January 1, 1987, he was appointed the superior of the Bethel Animation Center, now the Spiritan Center, Bethel Park, PA. He returned to Duquesne University, July 1999, and worked in the areas of student life and campus ministry and was also Assistant Superior of the Spiritan Community at Trinity Hall on campus. January 2005 brought him back to the Spiritan Center as superior until his retirement in 2006, where he resided at Sacred Heart Parish, Emsworth and did replacement ministry for the Congregation. Fr. Hanley employed his treasure of degrees in the two books he wrote. The one he published during his stay at Bethel is

titled "*Reflections for the Seeking Soul*", which consists of a series of dynamic nuggets grouped under themes which are highlighted for needs as they occur in one's spiritual life.

His books are a treasure not only for the general public, but they are especially valued by the various groups with which he has special ties. Those include the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians for whom he was appointed National Chaplain in July 2006. At the time of his passing Fr. Hanley was chaplain for Allegheny County, PA as well as the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Fr. Francis X. Hanley, C.S.Sp. died Thursday, December 23, 2010. He was preceded in death by his parents Joseph and Helen (Groff) Hanley; his brother, Joseph and sister, Kathleen Hartnett. He is survived by his brother, Paul (Marie) Hanley of Hockessin, DE and his sister Marianne (Jerry) Rea, Huber Heights OH; and many nieces and nephews. In memory of Fr. Hanley, donations may be made to the Spiritans designated for retirement or for the education of future Holy Spirit Fathers, 6230 Brush Run Road, Bethel Park PA 15102.