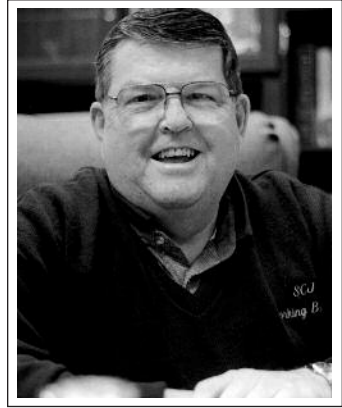# Fr. Frank Aresta, SCJ
1938-2001

A native of Provincetown, Mass., Fr. Frank Aresta, SCJ, entered the Priests of the Sacred Heart after seeing an advertisement for the community in the *Sunday Visitor*. "I was in the Air Force then and felt that something was missing from my life," he said.

Fr. Frank Aresta, SCJ

Although he ministered for several years in Africa, Fr. Aresta said that Wisconsin always felt like home to him. "Sacred Heart Monastery was my first assignment after professing vows in 1965. I was there for a year, spent another year working at our novitiate in Ste. Marie, Ill., but then ended up back in Hales Corners."

Drawn to religious life, he was a brother with the community for 15 years before he pursued ordination to the priesthood. It was while serving as a missionary in Lesotho, Africa, that he began to feel a call to the priesthood. "I really enjoyed my work in the missions as a brother, but I felt that I could do much more as a priest, especially because there are not many priests in the missions."

At the age of 40, Fr. Aresta left Africa to study theology at Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology. He was ordained in 1981. For several years he ministered in Port Elizabeth, South Africa. When there was a need for a canon lawyer in the diocese, he volunteered to go back to school once again and earned a degree in canon law from St. Paul University in Ottawa, Canada. Degree in hand, he was ready to return to South Africa, but a stress test revealed heart problems. Doctors advised Fr. Aresta to remain in the States.

So, he went back to his homebase of Hales Corners where he assumed a variety of roles. He served in administration at SHSST, as provincial secretary and as mission secretary, taught at SHSST and Catholic Theological Union in Chicago, and served as a chaplain to area hospitals and with the local fire department. His last assignment was as spiritual director for the Province Development Office. He also served on the Marriage Tribunal for the archdiocese of Milwaukee.

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