

Fr. Frank Hudson, SCJ

1925-1996

Originally from Pueblo, Colo., Fr. Frank Hudson, SCJ, learned about the community through a magazine advertisement. He began his studies at Divine Heart Seminary in Donaldson, Ind., and professed his vows in 1945.

After his ordination in 1952, he had a brief stint as provincial secretary to Fr. Richard Kiefer, SCJ. But soon after, he was back at the minor seminary — this time as a teacher.

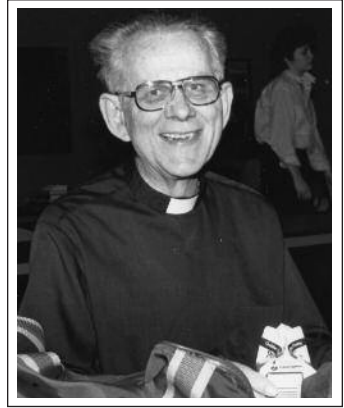
“I did that for 12 years and really enjoyed it,” he said in an interview shortly before his retirement. But as much as he enjoyed the work, he wanted to challenge himself to something different. Abruptly changing his lifestyle, he became a missionary in Zaire (now DR Congo), and later, South Africa. Yet, even in these mission assignments he found himself teaching.

“In South Africa, I taught basic math and some religion,” he said. “Working with the children was a good way to pick up the language (Xhosa).” After completing his assignments in Africa, he returned to the United States and resumed full-time teaching.

It was while he was teaching at a Catholic high school in San Bernardino, Calif., that Fr. Frank learned he had multiple sclerosis. He completed the school year, and on the suggestion of the provincial superior, returned to Hales Corners. Retirement was hardly in his plans though. He took another job teaching at Notre Dame High School in Milwaukee. The MS would flare up at times, but he said that he could work around it.

“When I started out with a new class, I let them know the first day that I had MS,” he said. “Many of the students had a friend or family member with the disease. They had questions and it was good for them to talk and learn about it.”

When Notre Dame closed in 1988, Fr. Hudson retired from full-time teaching. For many years, he continued to tutor and do “help-out” ministry as he was able.



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