

Fr. Frank Strafalace, SCJ

1929-2003

Within minutes of delivering a meditation on the last words of Jesus on the Cross, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit," Fr. Frank Strafalace, SCJ, returned to the rectory and collapsed of an apparent heart attack. He was presiding at the Good Friday liturgy at Our Lady of Guadalupe parish in Houston, where he served as associate pastor for 10 years.

Originally from Pittsburgh, PA, Fr. Frank was a chaplain's assistant in the Navy from 1948-1952.

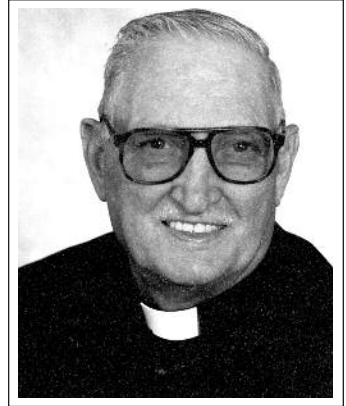
Following his discharge, he studied art and design at the Art Institute of Pittsburgh and then worked in that field for several years before pursuing his vocation to religious life.

Fr. Frank professed his first vows with the Priests of the Sacred Heart in 1958. In 1965, he was ordained to the priesthood.

His assignments took him not only around the country, but around the world. From 1967 to 1971, he was a missionary in South Africa. Back in the United States, he was associate pastor of St. Joan of Arc parish in Minneapolis, MN, before taking on the first of several assignments in South Dakota. From 1974-1976 he was pastor of St. Joseph parish in Cherry Creek, pastor at St. Martin's parish in Murdo, SD (1980-1984), and on the pastoral team serving several parishes on the Lower Brule and Crow Creek reservations (1985-1992).

From 1977-1980, he was pastor of St. Margaret Mary parish in Detroit, MI, and beginning in 1993, he was associate pastor at Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Fr. Frank was well known for his "green thumb." The communities with which he lived and ministered always benefited from his joy of gardening. While with the pastoral team in Lower Brule, Fr. Frank's gardening earned St. Mary's Church the "Yard of the Year" award from the Lower Brule Community Club.



Fr. Frank Strafalace, SCJ