



Br Theodore Bender, S.J.

(1933-2022. In Zambia 1976-1978)

7 February 2022

Theodore (Ted) C Bender was born on 8 January 1935, to Charles Bender and Catherine (Kast) Bender in Union City, NJ. He had three sisters Caroline, Eleanor, and Louise. He was baptized in Union City at Holy Family Church. He attended St Joseph's High School from 1948-1952. From 1957 to 1960, he attended Saint Peter's University (then College) and majored in Economics.

In February 1963 he entered the Society at St Andrew's on Hudson in Poughkeepsie, NY. On 2 February 1965 he professed First Vows. From 1966 until 1971 he served as the Assistant Director of the Catholic Medical Mission Board at Xavier High School in New York City. From 1971 to 1975 he lived in the Bronx at Kohlmann Hall. While there he worked as secretary to the Provincial, as well as minister and director of office personnel. 1971 was also the year when he started his tertianship. On 2 February 1973 he professed his final vows. He came to Zambia in 1976 for two years. He worked as minister in the Novitiate and looked after the Province accounts. He was competent at keeping the books but found the low level of efficiency hard to cope with. He was an easy going personality and fitted into the community life well. Even in his short stay he rendered service to the Catholic Medical Board. In 1984 he began another two years of international service at St Joseph's, Benin City, Nigeria where he was assistant to the superior.

In 1986 he returned to the States and spent a year at Murray-Weigel Hall in the Bronx as assistant minister. In 1987-1988 he was assistant to the rector at St Peter's College. He returned to Murray-Weigel in 1988 as assistant director to the Province infirmary. He was also pastoral minister to Home Health Care Hudson County.

In 1989, he returned to Xavier High School for six years. He worked in a variety of roles, while there, including minister and assistant to rector. It was here that he completed his degree in nursing at New York University in 1992. While living at Xavier, he also served as a pastoral minister in Home Health Care, was in charge of Health Practices Practical Nursing at Gouverneur Hospital and was a charge nurse at Home Health Care.

From 1994 to 1999 he was a nurse and minister at Mt Loretta Nursing Home, Inter-County Home Health Care and served the Jesuit retreat house in Auriesville, NY. From 1999 to 2005 he would work at Auriesville Jesuit Martyrs Shrine., as the Jesuit community assistant, Jesuit cemetery assistant, the house consultor and was responsible for Shrine security.

His last assignment would be at a Jesuit health center – not Murray-Weigel Hall, but rather Campion Health and Wellness Center in Weston, Mass. He served as an assistant to his infirm brother Jesuits for ten years from 2009 until 2019. In 2019 he retired from active work but continued to prayer for the Church and the Society. He passed away on 7 February 2022.