



Fr Michael O'Donnell, S.J.
(1938-2014. In Zambia 1971-1972)

5 August 2014

Father Michael O'Donnell was born on April 6, 1938 in Montreal, Quebec, the son of William John O'Donnell and Grace Georgina Drucker. After studies he entered the Society in Guelph in March 1959 and followed the formation as a Jesuit brother. He spent two years in Milford, Ohio in the brothers Juniorate program. For years after that, he served in Guelph as the infirmarian. In 1970 discernment led to him to request he be sent to the mission in Zambia. In 1970 he went to Corpus Christi College in Wimbledon, England to study catechetics and a year later to Zambia to teach children. Unfortunately his overall health was not up to his zeal and he returned to Canada in 1972. A further discernment while in Zambia raised the possibility that he had a vocation to the priesthood. He began theology at Regis College and in 1979 he was ordained a priest.

Pastoral work, and parish work more specifically, was to be his passion. Choné House and St. Anne's Parish in Thunder Bay; Toronto – Our Lady of Lourdes; Thunder Bay - St. Andrew's; Terrence Bay – St. Andrew's; Halifax – Canadian Martyrs' Parish; St. John's, Newfoundland – St. Pius X. In all these places he offered his service in a number of roles, pastor, consultor, house superior, admonitor. He was a charming person, well loved by Jesuits, family and parishioners alike. He had a terrific sense of humor. He was appreciated for his fine baritone voice and his musical gifts. Fr O'Donnell spent the summers of his final few years working at the Shrine of the Canadian Martyrs in Midland and in Pickering during the winter. He died on August 5, 2014 in Pickering, Ontario, Canada.