

3 October

FR HENRY KENNEY 28 September 1918 – 3 October 2011



Henry (Hank) Kenney was an Indiana native. One of six children - five were boys – he did his High School at Indianapolis. He then moved to St. Joseph's College in Rensselaer, Indiana and studied for a BA in both English and Physics, graduating in 1939. He then entered the Jesuit Novitiate in Milford, Ohio. Over the next eleven years, as he studied to become a Jesuit, Hank did a licentiate in philosophy from West Baden College (1946) and a licentiate in sacred theology (1953). He was ordained in 1952.

For the next twenty-one years. Hank taught at high school and college levels at Loyola Academy in Wilmette, Illinois, (1946-1979) and Xavier University (1957-1967). He held a variety of positions in the Midwest. He was superior of the philosophers at Bellarmine School of Theology and later of the collegiate (First Studies) program at the University of Detroit. He was also assistant for communities and apostolates at the Province Office (1969-1973).

In 1973, Fr. Kenney went to Ghana and Nigeria to promote spiritual renewal before moving to the Sudan to teach philosophy (1975-1979). He then returned to the United States and spent a year teaching at Loyola University Chicago. It was in 1981, that Hank went to South Africa for five years and served as spiritual and retreat director and superior. "He was a great spiritual director --a prayer coach in many ways," said Fr. Bado.

In 1987 he was back in the States at Kentucky Jesuit Mission in Lexington and remained there for 24 years offering outreach programs, individual and group retreats, direction of the Bluegrass Spirituality Centre, providing chaplaincy to various hospitals and other activities to aid the community. "Fr. Kenney began Spiritual Direction for me and we met for 25 years. I will truly, truly, truly miss him," said longtime friend of 25 years Rev. Willis Polk. "He taught me to be with God and to love him."

In July of 2011, Fr. Kenney was moved to the Colombiere Centre in Clarkston, Michigan, until his death in October.