



SECRETARY OF THE PROVINCE

REDEMPTORIST PROVINCIAL RESIDENCE

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Fr. Lundy: “American Things” for Others

Redemptorist missionary, Rev. James Paul Lundy, died on April 26, 2014 at the Mary Manning Walsh Rehabilitation Center in New York, New York. He had just celebrated his 95th birthday earlier in the month before returning peacefully to the Lord.

A viewing will take place at the Cosgrove Funeral Parlor in Brooklyn on Tuesday, April 29 from 2:00 PM till 5:00 PM followed by a viewing in the lower church of the Basilica of OLPH from 7:00 PM until 9:00 PM. There will also be a Wake Service in the Basilica at 7:30 PM on Tuesday, April 29, 2014. A Mass of the Resurrection will be concelebrated at 10:30 AM on Wednesday, April 30, 2014 in the lower church of the Basilica followed by interment at the Redemptorist section of the Cemetery of the Resurrection which is located on Staten Island, New York.



Rev. James Paul Lundy, CSSR

Father Lundy was born on April 7, 1919 in Irwin, Pennsylvania. His parents, John Paul Lundy and Gertrude Fatcher, were members of the Immaculate Conception parish there. He professed his first vows as a Redemptorist on August 2, 1942 was ordained on June 22, 1947 and died on April 26, 2014.

Father Lundy attended the Redemptorist Preparatory Seminary in North East, PA and went on to make his novitiate year in Ilchester, MD where he professed his vows. He completed his theological studies at Mount St. Alphonsus, the Major Seminary in Esopus, New York, where he was ordained.

For more than fifty-five of the sixty-seven years of his priesthood he served heartily and happily on the foreign missions in Brazil. In cities, towns, and remote country villages he preached the Good News and administered the Sacraments in Portuguese to all the faithful. His apostolic assignments brought him to Campo Grande, Aquidauana, Miranda, Ponta Pora, Tibagi, Ponta Grossa, Telemaco Borba, Antonina, Guaratuba and Curitiba. Then, for the last ten years of his priesthood, he continued to serve the Redemptorists by assisting the priests and brothers at the OLPH Rectory on 61st Street in Manhattan and by helping many national and international visitors feel comfortable and at home through his genuine hospitality and welcoming smile.

Once, when he was asked why he was transferred to so many different assignments in Brazil, Father Lundy, an ardent Yankee fan, chuckled back with this reference to our National sport, “I thought it would be better to keep moving around and not settle down in any one particular place until the Red Sox won the pennant. And since that rarely happened...”

Bostonian classmate and good friend, Father Raymond McCarthy, knew Father Lundy very well: We called him “Diamond Jim” because he was the best right fielder ever to attend our seminary formation program. Baseball was the hobby of his life. He even named two dogs in Brazil “Mantle” and “Maris.” And although he never built a towering cathedral or preached like Bishop Sheen or Billy Graham, he certainly touched the hearts of thousands of people who lived in dense, jungle forests and along godforsaken plains through his spiritual sincerity and generous concern. Honestly, there was only one way that Jim Lundy could offend you—by being *too* kind!

His colleagues in these far-away lands benefitted greatly whenever Jim went to the States to preach about the foreign missions. Why? Because he would return to Brazil with as many “American Things” (in Portuguese “Coisa Americana”) that he could possibly fit in a suitcase. Then he would give these gifts to his confreres to help ward off any feelings of homesickness. These “American things” were often simple foodstuffs—a jar of Skippy peanut butter, a package of Kellogg’s pop-tarts, a can or two of Campbell’s Tomato Soup—anything that was truly impossible to find in the remote mission regions.

Throughout his entire priesthood, Father Lundy was forever thinking of other people first. In a difficult world and in dire straits he was an *Alter Christus*, another Christ, who worked tirelessly and amiably to bring a moment of peace and a glimmer of joy into the hearts of those around him. May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen.