

## Rev. Aloysius Zimmerman, S.V.D., 72

1919 — 1991

Fr. Aloysius Zimmerman, SVD, died suddenly, in his sleep at Divine Word Center Tucson, AZ., Oct. 28, 1991. He had currently been Chaplain to Holy Family Convalescent Home and the Sisters of St. Joseph Carondelet.

Father Al, as he was fondly called was born in Westphalia, April 17, 1919, into a family of 10 children from Emil Zimmerman and Josephine Posch. He was number five, eighteen months younger than his brother Tony, Divine Word Missionary of the Chicago Province, currently in Japan. His brothers, Roman, Bernard, and Larry, along with sisters, Anne and Betty and their families remain in the Midwest. His sister, Sr. Irene, is a Religious in the School Sisters of St. Francis in Milwaukee. A brother, Jack, and a sister, Marie, preceded him in death. He has been blessed with 28 nieces and nephews.

He entered St. Paul's Mission Seminary, Epworth, in 1937. The story goes that he was so homesick that it was only the skill and warmth of the Prefect, Father Appelhans, later Bishop, who could persuade him to stay one more week. He was a Novice under Fr. Felix Glorious. His Philosophy and Theological studies, as well as ordination to the priesthood took place at Divine Word Chapel, Techry, IL. He was ordained in 1947 by Bishop O'Brien of Chicago Archdiocese.

He was assigned to parish ministry in the Black Apostolate of the inner city parishes of Chicago. For 10 years he served as Associate pastor at St. Elizabeth's. One of his favorite tales was the Chicago City Basketball Championship won by his high school, which had such a small school population. He later became pastor and served for 15 years at Our Lady of the Gardens Church, also in Chicago. He worked tirelessly and effectively in parish ministry for 25 years.



He was noted, especially in the 1950's, as a highly respected Pastoral Theology Professor. He had an unusual opportunity in that while serving in parish ministry, he was invited to teach Pastoral Theology at Techry, IL.

Even though he loved parish ministry, his interest in seminary formation enabled him to commit to serve as Rector of Divine Word Seminary in East Troy, during a critical time of profound change. It was during his tenure there that the high school opened its doors to the needs of the multi-ethnic communities. Many students came from the inner-city of Chicago. He taught himself Spanish in order to relate better to the Spanish speaking students.

In a lighter vein, he was also known affectionately at that time as the "Bionic" Rector, due to having open heart surgery, replacement of two hips and losing a thumb in an accident.

If asked to describe what a Divine Word missionary is, it would be right and fitting to tell of Fr. Al. He was consistent, faithful, zealous, and dedicated to the Gospel life and ministry. He was also to blend interest in family along with SVD commitments. He was, indeed, a gift to the SVD.

Services were held Nov. 3 and 4 at Techry, IL., with burial there.