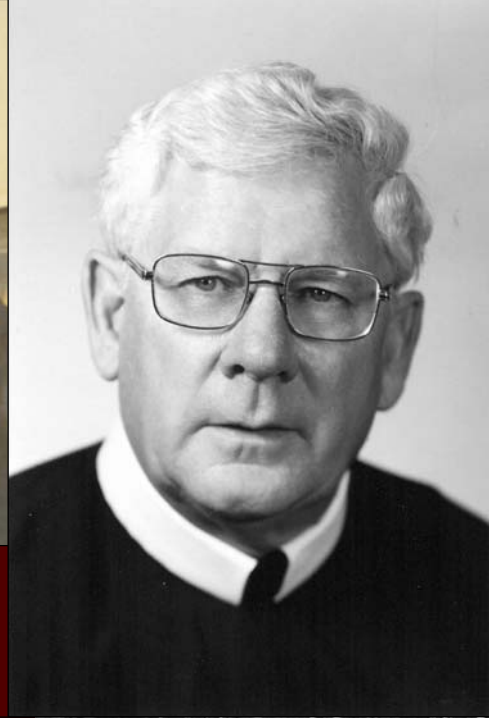


# IN REMEMBRANCE: JAMES PATTERSON, C.Ss.R.



Left to right, from above: Fr. James Patterson (standing) with classmates Richard Thiele, Leo Travis, Bill Steiner and Bill Parsons; a recent photo of Fr. Jim; and newly ordained Fr. Jim as a missionary in Brazil.

Photos courtesy of Denver Province Archives

Fr. James Patterson, who spent his early years as a missionary in Brazil and later worked tirelessly to promote *Liguorian* magazine, died on March 16 after three days in hospice care. Known as a great sportsman who hit as many as five holes-in-one on the golf course, Fr. Jim had suffered with debilitating neuropathy for many years.

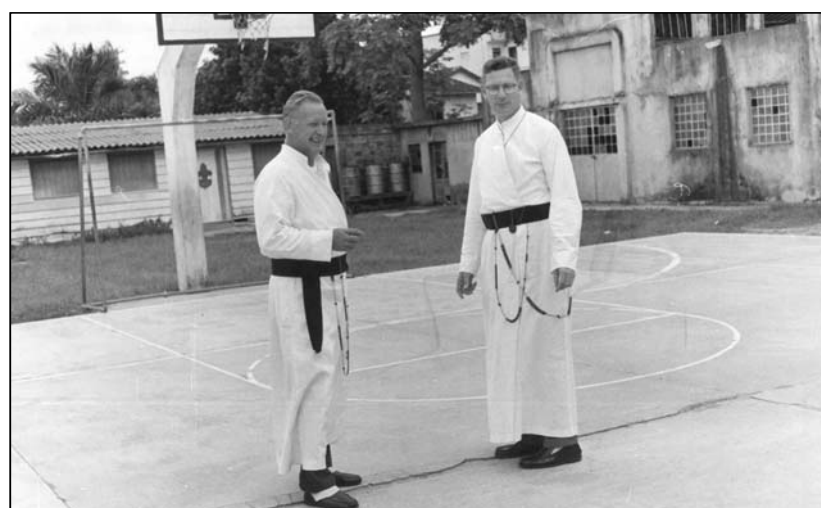
James Earl Patterson was born on July 9, 1927 in St. Louis, about six weeks after Charles Lindbergh made the first solo non-stop trans-Atlantic flight in the *Spirit of St. Louis*. He grew up in St. Anthony Parish with the Franciscan priests, but joined the Redemptorist seminary in Kirkwood, MO. Known to classmates as “Buck,” he had a life-long love of sports and was one of the school’s best athletes. Always positive, he was a joy to live with in community and was known as a man without guile – straightforward, honest, and good in every way.

He professed first vows on August 2, 1949 and perpetual vows on September 2, 1952. He was ordained to the priesthood at Immaculate Conception Seminary in Oconomowoc on June 29, 1954. The newly ordained missionary set sail for the foreign missions of Brazil in 1956. Known as “Pe. Andre,” he served at parishes in Coari, Codajas, Manacapuru and Manaus in Amazonas for 13 years. He also served as Local Consultor from 1959 to 1969.



His successful ministry in Manaus was recounted in an early issue of *Liguorian* magazine. He was assigned to the Chapel of St. Joseph on the outskirts of the city in 1962. It had been many years since a priest had been in the area, and he wondered how to attract the townsfolk back to the Church. Curious children approached him first. He handed out holy cards, and soon they were leading him to a few people whom they remembered as faithfully attending Mass. Soon, 18 adults were in the new Legion of Mary, gathering every Sunday to pray a rosary and share stories of the wonders that came about through the good will of the Legionnaires and the accompanying help of the Mother of God. He and Br. Gabriel Medic built a basketball court, complete with flood lights, to help keep the youngsters off the mean streets of Manaus at night.

He also excelled in retreat ministry, where he was highly regarded by many religious institutes of men and women.



*Left to right, from above: Br. Gabriel Medic and Fr. Jim Patterson standing on the basketball court they built for the boys in Brazil; and Fr. Jim with a young child.*



His speaking abilities served him well when he returned to the USA in 1969. After a brief stint promoting *Liguorian*, Fr. Jim served as a missionary based at the Eucharistic Heart Provincial Residence in Chicago from 1970-73. He then joined the staff of the Spiritual Life Center in Wichita, where he served for 10 years. Confreres who were golf enthusiasts loved having him back in the USA, and he joined them on many an outing. Confreres claim that he hit between three and five holes-in-one on the links.

Fr. Jim returned to Liguori Mission House in 1983, where he earned the moniker “Gentleman Jim” for his kind heart and gentle demeanor. He began tirelessly promoting *Liguorian*, and later worked behind the scenes, scheduling preaching dates for missionaries to promote the magazine in parishes around the country.

Fr. Jim officially retired in 2008 but remained at Liguori Mission House until failing health necessitated his move to St. Clement Health Care Center in 2009. The neuropathy steadily progressed, but he celebrated his 60th jubilee of profession last year with a smile on his face.

Fr. Jim donated his body to science in hopes of helping the medical profession learn more about neuropathy. A Memorial Mass will be celebrated at 11:00 am on Monday, March 30 at St. Clement Health Care Center. May the soul of this beloved and faithful Redemptorist rest in eternal peace.

*Submitted by Kristine Stremel, with contributions from Fr. Will Lowery*