

Rev. James Davis, C.Ss.R. 1926-2010

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Born in Grand Falls, NL on October 14, 1926, James Aloysius Davis was the eleventh child of Gertrude Hatch and John Davis and educated by Irish Presentation Sisters, graduating from high school there.

After attending a Redemptorist mission, he came for a year of studies (1942-1943) at the Redemptorist juvenate, which was located in Toronto during part of the Second World War.

In 1943, Fr. Davis entered the Novitiate in Saint John, NB and made first profession at St. Mary's College, Brockville, on August 14, 1944. He studied at St. Alphonsus Seminary, Woodstock, ON., where he was ordained June 18, 1950 by Bishop John Coady of London, ON. Fr. Davis celebrated his first Mass at Immaculate Conception in Grand Falls with Msgr. W. Finn and Rev. Gerald Murphy, C.Ss.R.

Fr. Davis earned a bachelor of arts degree from Assumption University in Windsor (1956) and a master of arts degree in French from Laval University, Québec City in 1964.

In 1968, Fr. Davis volunteered for Redemptorist Brazilian missions of the Diocese of Joazeiro. He prepared with language courses in Portuguese and at the Coady International Institute at St. Francis Xavier University. He served in the Brazilian missions from August 1969 to August 1972 where two priests served 60 missions and a congregation of 38,000. Fr. Davis continued an interest in the foreign missions by setting up a Mission Club and his efforts raised more than \$10,000.

Upon his return to Canada, Fr. Davis was assigned to his home province of Newfoundland, where he worked as a missionary and pastoral associate at St. Teresa's parish, St. John's, for the next 16 years. He held a particular interest in the Cursillo program, Legion of Mary and Marian preaching. Fr. Davis also gave retreats and missions in small, bilingual parishes in the Eastern Townships of Québec. As a parish priest, he was dedicated to home visiting, especially the elderly and the poor.

Fr. Davis returned to St. John's in 2008 and lived at the Agnes Pratt home, where he died on October 21, 2010 with Fr. Leo English at his bedside. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at St. Teresa's Church, St. John's, on October 23 and his body was buried in the Redemptorist plot in Belvedere Cemetery in St. John's.

APPOINTMENTS

1950-1953

Socius to Novice Master

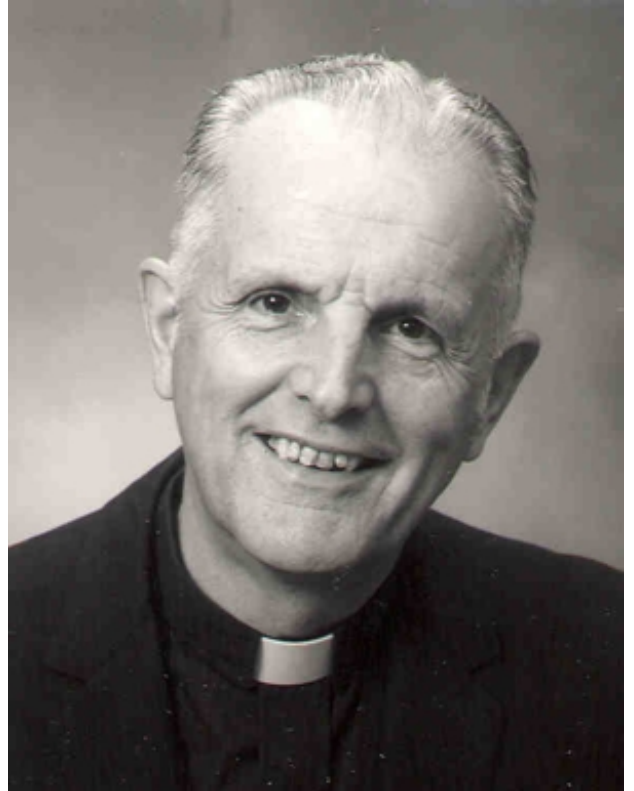
L'Abord-à-Plouffe , PQ

1953-1955

St. Ann's, Montreal

Parish

1955-1956



Assumption University, Windsor
Student

1956-1968
St. Mary's College, Brockville
Teacher, subsocius,

1968-1969
Coady International Institute
St. Francis Xavier University
Antigonish, NS
Preparation for Brazil Missions

1969-1972
Casa Nova, Bahia, Brazil
Missionary

1972-1975
St. Teresa's, St. John's
Preaching and Pastoral help

1975-1978
St. Teresa's
Parish

1978-1983
St. Teresa's
Missions

1983-1988
St. Teresa's
Parish

1988-1989
St. Peter's, Saint John
Parish

1990-1993
St. Teresa's
Parish

1994-2006
St. Peter's
Parish

2006-2008
St. Patrick's, Toronto

2008-2010
St. John's

Fr. Davis as a young man

*Biography and images Courtesy of the Archives of
Edmonton-Toronto Redemptorists*

