

Father Wallis (Wally) Herbert George, CSSR

born 22.04.1924, professed 02.08.1945, ordained 29.06.1950, died 11.05.2005

A funeral mass was celebrated May 15 for Redemptorist Father Wally H. George in the chapel at St. Clement Health Care Center in Liguori, Missouri. Father George died May 1 at St. Anthony's Medical Center in St. Louis. He was 80 and this year was celebrating the 60th anniversary of his profession of vows.

Father George, born in Wyandotte, Mich., made his first profession as a Redemptorist at Mount Saint Clement's College in DeSoto and was ordained to the holy priesthood in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin.

Father George, who was often erroneously known as Walter, but who preferred Wally to avoid explaining that his name was his mother's maiden name (soon made famous by the American divorcee, Wallis Simpson) then spent twenty-five years in Brazil, as a local treasurer, consultant, parish priest, and director of a wide-ranging radio apostolate. For eight of his twenty-five years, Father George undertook the immense work of coordinator of pastoral life in the upper Amazon Valley. He was stationed in the Brazilian cities of Codajas, Belem, Manaus, and Coari. He then served as director of mission assistance for Latin America from 1975 to 1978 while stationed in Washington, D.C.

Father George became pastor of Saint Michael's Parish in Chicago from 1978 to 1981 at which time his vast experience and

many languages brought him to be named as an editor of the General Congregation's Catalogue while serving as a member of the staff of Saint Joseph's Preparatory College in Edgerton, Wisconsin. He took great pains and some pride in compiling the 1983 Catalogue (in which he thought he set out his name once and for all as "Wallis George").



In 1988, he was asked to serve as the coordinator of the North American group of Redemptorist historians and archivists preparing for the General History of the

Congregation. He organized and chaired the annual meetings, commented on work, organized the archival documents relating to the western United States in the Roman General Historical Archives, and produced several studies of the relationship between Redemptorist charism, theology, and history in the United States. In 1999, he became a recipient of the First Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos Award for Redemptorist History in recognition of his contribution to the writing of the history of the Congregation in North America. Declining health brought him to live at St. Clement Health Care Center since 1999.

He was buried in Liguori, Missouri. Several historians and archivists will remember the enthusiasm he had for everything he did.

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