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SACRED HEART JUNIORATE
IPSWICH, MASSACHUSETTS



1777

FATHER FRANCIS J. NEE, S.D.B.

Born at Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts 1929

Professed as a Salesian 1949

Ordained a Priest 1960

Died at Ipswich, Massachusetts, April 3, 1970

May 31, 1970

Dear Confreres,

....On the First Friday, April 3, 1970, at the age of forty one, Father Francis Nee left the sufferings of this vale of sorrows to join his risen Saviour at three o'clock, the Friday within the Octave of Easter. His death was quiet and peaceful, so much like the whole of his life. We had heard it said so often before; we had meditated on it, preached it ourselves, never expecting that our first full encounter with the awesome drama of death would demonstrate with such unmistakable clarity that as a man lives, so shall he die.

....Funeral services were held at his home parish of Holy Name in West Roxbury, Massachusetts, with burial at the family plot in Saint Joseph Cemetery.

....Father Nee first came into contact with Salesian youth activity quite accidentally when he took a summer job as a counsellor at a camp near New Rochelle, New York, after his graduation from Roslindale High School. He studied Latin at Newton, New Jersey, where after his novitiate he pronounced his first vows on September 8, 1949. Having completed his college studies, he spent the years of tirocinium at New Rochelle, both at Salesian High and at the Bulletin office. Theological studies were completed at the PAS in Turin and at Melchet Court, Southampton, England, where he was ordained on July 3, 1960.

....Father Nee fulfilled assignments wherever obedience called: at New Rochelle, New York, at Sherbrooke, Canada, at Ellenville, New York for summers. After a first operation about five years ago for a carcinoma, melanoma cells were detected, and the outlook from then on was never a very bright one. Father knew this when he was assigned to this house in order to be closer to his native place and to his family. He, however, made an astounding, almost unbelievable comeback, contrary to all medical predictions. The initial operation left him somewhat handicapped in the full freedom of movement and in a lack of strength in one arm and hand. He continued to offer his services for whatever he was able to do by way of assistance of the boys, particularly on weekend retreats, and of writing and of secretarial work.

....Father Nee was a man devoted to community living, exact, prompt, participating in every activity. He was concerned with all, about everything - the cleanliness of the house, the grounds, the boys or visitors. He was gifted with a phenomenal memory and had his own, little, unobtrusive way of reminding Father Director about certain little traditions or particular practices of the house.

....Saint Paul tells us that death has lost its sting, can no longer boast of victory, because our Lord Jesus Christ by His resurrection is victorious; and we, restored to His new life, also share in this glorious victory. He further informs us that our perishable nature puts on imperishability, this mortal nature puts on immortality. Father Francis Nee said his last Mass on this earth on Easter Sunday morning, March 29, 1970. We have every reason to believe he joined our Risen Saviour within that week of the resurrection. I would think that the presence of so many confreres, seventeen concelebrating with Father Provincial at the Mass of Requiem, was not only a communal testimony to this belief, but also a fitting expression of our fraternal sympathies to the Nee family so sadly tried twice in as many months.

....I am sure we will continue to pray for our beloved brother, for his dear family, and for an intention I know was close to his heart - for our seminaries in these changing and trying times.

Sincerely yours in Christ

Joseph W. Vecchio, Director

Necrology data: Father Francis J. Nee - 1929 (Jamaica Plain, Mass., U.S.A.) - 1970 (Ipswich, Mass., U.S.A.)

