

TRINITY NEWS

Pentecost X Living our Prayers and our Models of Prayer

The Reverend Dr Joseph Palmer Frary of St Andrew's Seminary died on July 12. He was attended by his students in a dedicated and loving manner in his last days. He was very respected by the staff and all who came to the seminary. He suffered with various illnesses over the past few years with great stoicism. I have been asked speak on the 40th Day observance for him at St. Andrews Seminary chapel on August 21 and that will be a privilege. He had missionary zeal, serving in the Solomon Islands, Korea and Japan as well as the Philippines.

Fr. Joe, as he was known, grew up in the Episcopal Church in the United States when it was in its heyday. It had the magnificent National Cathedral in Washington, the huge Cathedral of St John the Divine in New York, and the best equipped central office of the Anglican Church in New York. It had a strong missionary outreach, and endowments that enabled it to do many things to support the Church in a number of provinces overseas. It helped in the financing of the Lambeth Conferences of the Anglican Communion every ten years. I benefited from that outreach when I was the priest of the missionary diocese of Panama from 1969-73 and 1977-82.

Father Joe was an institution at Saint Andrew's Seminary over a number of years. He became increasingly disenchanted with the Episcopal Church in United States and eventually sought refuge in the Episcopal Church of the Philippines. Sad to say, his disenchantment had a trace of bitterness and those of us who loved him were not able to persuade him to drop it. He loved the liturgical round of St. Andrew's Seminary.

His educational interests showed an early passion for philosophy and the application of the faith in the modern world. He was fascinated by the Philippines and a keen reader of the newspapers in Manila, often making comments to the editor! He inundated us with emails, sometimes stirring us to action. His range of interests was wider than

most. His reading made him a walking encyclopaedia of many aspects of the faith of the Church and its history. He was a good teacher, and his huge knowledge prompted his need to impart it. He spoke very rapidly and softly. When he did occasionally raise his voice he was heard!

Fr. Frary was very generous to the Seminary and very supportive of the students. He fought for things that he thought the students should have and he was constantly analysing what was going on in the Church, sometimes to the irritation of some people in entrenched positions. His open and courageous approach to matters meant that he sailed on in grand style. He was a priest of the old school and he was someone who came from the grand style. He lived a semi-monastic life and a life of prayer.

When I last spoke to him in his rooms not long before his death I thanked him for all that he had done for me, particularly when I came first in 2000 to teach at the Seminary. He showed me around and helped me to avoid some of the mistakes that people make when they come first come to a fresh situation. I shall remember him as someone who was so kind to me. We didn't always agree and indeed we had some spirited discussion because I did not fully share his negative view of the Episcopal Church in the United States. My concerns about the Church were very different to his own. My passion was that our teaching about the Christ must always be true to its formative mode and indeed reach out into the 21st century as a definable shape of the heart of God in Christ. Fr Joe took on the controversies of the day with all his erudition and intellectual fire.

I salute a very fine man and priest. His view of the church was shaped early and he never really lost it. It was a solitary life in some way. But he was a real thinker and undoubtedly an intellectual who was also immersed in life. This enabled him to reach beyond his solitary chapel of the heart.

Bishop Arthur Jones.

TO PLAN:

Wednesday.

- Bible Study, 10:00am

Thursday.

- Midweek Eucharist, 10am, Chapel

VOLUNTEERS SOUGHT:

The Sunday School program is looking for teachers and teachers' assistants for the following classes: 3-5 years; 6-8 years; and 9-12 years. Lesson plans will be provided. Interested parties may leave contact info at Parish Office. Orientation is today, after the 9:30 service, at the Parish Hall. The children's crèche will open in August and formal classes for all levels will start September 8.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: (Prop. 13)

Ecclesiastes 1:12-14; 2:18-23

Psalm 49

Colossians 3:12-17

Luke 12:13-21