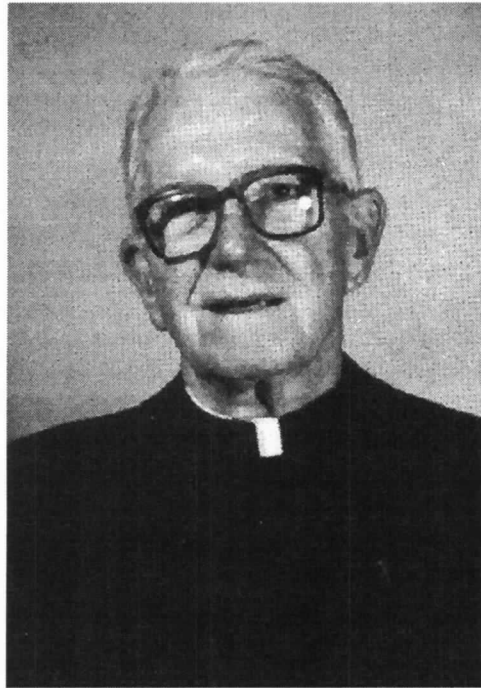


In Memoriam
Rev. Clement F. Lachowsky, C.S.Sp.
By: Fr. Michael Grey, C.S.Sp.

"Did you hear about the hair dresser who curled up and dyed?" With what must be described as "loving-agony," a former novice recalled just one of Clem's famous jokes! They were clean enough to use in any homily and, as another confrere mentioned, they were just one of the ways that Fr. Clement Lachowsky could defuse a tense moment or give people pause sufficient to readjust and get on with life. Fr. Clement Lachowsky, C.S.Sp., was a steady, sure presence among us and his example and life will not be forgotten. He is surely remembered for the faithfulness and zeal of his Spiritan and priestly vocation, his gentleness and kindness in ministry, his practicality and availability in mission, and his wisdom and prayerfulness in his many Congregational leadership positions.



*Rev. Clement F. Lachowsky, C.S.Sp.
December 2, 1920 - July 17, 2008*

The Western Province U.S.A. of the Congregation of the Holy Spirit both mourns the death of our brother, Fr. Clement Lachowsky, C.S.Sp., and celebrates his life and passing into the loving hands of Our Lord. Fr. Lachowsky died of kidney failure on July 17, 2008, at 87 years of age, at Vista Hospital in Perris, California. The Vigil for the Deceased was held on July 24, 2008, at Our Lady of the Valley Church in Hemet. The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at Our Lady of the Valley on July 25, 2008, followed by burial in the Holy Ghost Fathers and Brothers Cemetery next door to the church. Fr. Michael White, C.S.Sp. presided at the liturgy.

Clement Francis Lachowsky was born in Conway, Arkansas, on December 2, 1920, to John Edward and Eleanora (Strack) Lachowsky. He had four brothers and four sisters; John of Altus, AR, Louis of Texarkana, AR, Alphonse and Norbert of Altus, AR, Sister Mary John, S.S.N.D. - served in Kyoto, Japan, now in Chattawa, MS, Angela (Thessing) from Conway, Rosemary (Zimmerman)

of Little Rock, and Clarita (Lepine) of Pawtucket, RI. All but Alphonse survive Fr. Clem.

Clem grew up in the farming town of Conway and was baptized in St. Joseph Church. His family and so many relations were original or descendants of the immigrants who made up the St. Joseph Colony founded by Fr. Joseph Strub, the first U.S.A. superior of the Holy Ghost Fathers and Brothers, and which extended up the Arkansas River from north of Little Rock to Altus. He went to school at St. Joseph elementary and high school. Clem followed the example of his cousins Anthony and Frederick, and entered Holy Ghost Missionary College at

Cornwells Heights, PA, as a freshman in 1938. On summer vacations in Conway, he would visit his family and often was called upon to help cut hay. His carpentry skills were often used to good advantage at Cornwells and later at Ferndale where he was repairman and builder of packing boxes for supplies destined for the missions in Africa. Unfortunately, for all of his many, many gifts, Clem could not carry a tune. This was no simple matter for faithful confreres and novices, since he would be required to sing many a High Mass in the years prior to our contemporary vernacular liturgy. Befitting the wonderful writing style and reflecting the wisdom of formation directors of the day, one wrote of Clem, "Good student; fine manual worker; excellent religious/can't sing and an unattractive voice." No one can but acknowledge that Clem's kindness cancelled that demerit on many an occasion.

Completing his novitiate year at Ridgefield and his Theology studies at St. Mary's in Ferndale, Norwalk, CT, Fr. Clement Lachowsky, C.S.Sp. was ordained a priest by Bishop O'Brien of Hartford, CT, at St. Mary's on March 13, 1947. On June 8, 1947, Fr. Clem and his classmates made their Apostolic Consecration to the Apostolate at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City.

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Following ordination, Fr. Clem was assigned as head of the Science Department at Cornwells Heights, teaching courses in Biology, Chemistry, and Physiology. Having studied undergraduate sciences at Duquesne University, Fr. Clem earned his M.S. in Biology at the Graduate School at Villanova University, completing a thesis on Atherosclerosis. His knowledge and his steady manner were noted early on. A community journal recalls of Father, "His sense of humor is known far and wide and often is the balm for frayed nerves or dull moments." Fr. Clem was blessed, as were so many Spiritans at Cornwells, to celebrate Mass for Mother Katherine (St. Katherine Drexel) at the Motherhouse of the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament just next door to the college. Some years later he would earn his secondary administration credentials at Arizona State University.

In September, 1956, Fr. Clem was asked by Fr. Frank McGlynn, the Provincial, to prepare to become novice master. He traveled to Rome on the S.S. United States and studied for one year in the Institute of Spirituality at the Pontifical Gregorian University. In 1957, Fr. Clem returned to the U.S. to assume his post as Novice Master at Ridgefield, CT. In July, 1963, the Generalate erected a new novitiate for the Western U.S.A. Vice-Province in Glenwood Springs, CO. Fr. Vernon Gallagher, assigned Fr. Clem to this new venture and he turned over his responsibilities at Ridgefield to Fr. Joseph Harmon, C.S.Sp.

In 1968, Fr. Clem was assigned to Phoenix as principal of Gerard Catholic High School. Leading a co-ed high school the size of Gerard was a daunting task but Fr. Clem relied on his ability to learn-on-the-job, and to depend on the experienced, educated and dedicated lay teachers, religious sisters (O.S.B., R.S.M., C.P.P.S.) and Holy Ghost Fathers on the faculty.

In 1970, the young province was growing. The post-Novitiate students studied at St. Thomas Seminary in Denver where the East and West U.S.A. provinces had their formation communities. Fr. Jim O'Reilly established the college program at the University of St. Thomas in Houston. Glenwood was to be home to a reopened novitiate. Fr. George Harcar, Provincial asked Fr. Clem with the able assistance of some Brothers, to help "shape up the property!"

The needs of the recently founded Spiritan missions in Mexico were also pressing and the province once again turned to Fr. Clem. In September of 1971, the Superior of the Mission, Fr. George Reardon, C.S.Sp., welcomed "Padre Clemente" to la Parroquia de Santa Ana, Tanlajas, S.L.P., Mexico. Padre Clemente served as Pastor, as a very dearly regarded mentor and friend to the newly-ordained Western USA Spiritan missionaries, and also as religious superior of the mission. From the early days, living behind a physically decaying church building in a grass-roofed shed fondly named "The Tiltin' Hilton," Padre Clemente helped in the building and development of a sound, vibrant Christian community.

In 1982, Padre Clemente was asked to serve as Pastor of St. John the Evangelist Parish in Tucson. Characteristically, Padre Clem lived the availability that he had encouraged in his novices. He surely experienced Father Libermann's sound admonition, "A soul which wants to be God's does not do what it wants (N.D., IV, 461)." In a letter he wrote, "I am ready and willing to go where needed." He added, "I will always be grateful for the years I have spent in the Hausteca. I personally think they have been among the most fruitful of my priesthood."

In October, 1986, Fr. Clem was elected Provincial and moved to San Antonio. During his tenure, a serious controversy on justice and race developed in Opelousas, LA. When the Bishop of Lafayette asked that the pastor of Holy Ghost Church, Fr. Albert McKnight, C.S.Sp. be replaced, Fr. Lachowsky stood his ground. Not given to showy displays, Fr. Clem decided to return the pastoral care of the parish to the diocese. Divine Word Fathers accepted Holy Ghost, one of the few instances where Spiritans did not turn over an African-American work to diocesan clergy.

In 1989, Fr. Clem returned to Tucson and served as chaplain to the Veterans Administration Hospital with residence at St. John's. In 1990, he moved on, once again at the urgent request of a provincial, to St. Anthony's in the Casa Blanca section of Riverside, CA. Originally, Spiritans arrived in places like Riverside and Bakersfield to serve African-American Catholics. While these efforts did not flourish, others did! Spiritans developed St. Catherine of Alexandria and staffed Notre Dame High School. In 1970, the province accepted the

economically struggling and largely Mexican-American parish of St. Anthony's, a few miles from St. Catherine's. Some thirty years later, our job was done. Fr. Clem was asked to prepare the parish for its transfer to the diocese.

In July, 1991, Fr. Clem moved for what would be his last assignment. He arrived as a young 70 year old Associate Pastor of Our Lady of the Valley Parish in Hemet, CA. He was renowned for his generous availability to the large percentage of Spanish-speaking parishioners and for the large number of elderly retirees, at home, in nursing homes and hospitals. In his retirement, although unable to say a public Mass, Fr. Clem would wait for his ride and go out to anoint the sick, to hear confession, or to pray and share words of comfort and courage with the elderly and homebound.

Fr. Clem retired from the parish to move next door, to Casa Laval and the retirement community. Some short months ago, Fr. Clem was transferred to a nursing home that we are well acquainted with and which is able to dispense the additional care needed for our men. The Province is grateful to Fr. George Healy, C.S.Sp. and confreres for their kindness and caring attention for our brother, Clem. We are grateful to Fr. Philip Howard, C.S.Sp. and the community of Our Lady of the Valley for the assistance and support given in this time.

By the way, "Did you hear about the blind carpenter who picked up his hammer and saw?"

Requiescat in Pace, Clement Lachowsky, C.S.Sp.

Spiritan Center in Tanzania used for meeting on enculturation...

NEW EVANGELISATION AND AFRICA CULTURE

VATICAN CITY, 22 JUL 2008 (VIS) - "Pastoral Prospects for the New Evangelization in the Context of Globalization and its Effects on African Cultures" was the theme of a meeting held from 23 to 26 July in Bagamoyo, Tanzania, under the presidency of Archbishop Gianfranco Ravasi, president of the Pontifical Council for Culture.

The meeting, which according to a communique on the event "forms part of a series of initiatives which intend to promote the pastoral approach to culture in different parts of the world", was attended by the African members and consultants of the pontifical council and by bishops in charge of the pastoral care of culture in their respective episcopal conferences.

After recalling that the last meeting of this kind took place in 2004 in Johannesburg, South Africa, the communique indicated that the focus this time would be on the evangelization of cultures, with particular emphasis on matters related to secularization.

"In the current context, with the cultural environment and lifestyles intensely affected by the effects of globalization, the Church strives to promote the inculturation of the faith along with a new Christian humanism which will allow men and women in Africa to be fully African and fully Christian", read the note.

Cardinal Polycarp Pengo, a member of the Pontifical Council for Culture and president of SECAM, closed the meeting with a talk on: "The Church, Family of God, Responding to the Challenges posed by Globalization's Diffusion of Cultural Models Foreign to African Cultures".

The Catholic Cultural Center 'Bagamoyo' run by the Spiritan Fathers was the venue for the meeting. Bagamoyo was one of the major ports of the slave trade, where slaves were brought from Central and East Africa to be sent to the markets of Zanzibar. Hundreds of thousands of persons would be captured in the inner zones of the continent and then embarked from this port. A mission was opened in 1868 for those who had escaped from the slave traders or had been ransomed by the missionaries. "While choosing the theme", says the communique, "the organizers have not overlooked the fact that secularization involves a modern form of slavery, neither less oppressive nor less damaging to the dignity of the human person.

"The Church", the communique added in conclusion, "is conscious of the fundamental cultural dimension of sustained development, indispensable for the future of the African continent. Therefore, particular weight will be given to the cultural values present in Africa which are at the service of the dignity of the human person".