Fr. Charles D. READ 81 U.S.A. * December 26, 1913 Holyoke, MA + July 17, 1995 Bethel Park, PA

The son of an Episcopalian couple, he attended public schools in New Haven, CT. He then worked as a warehouseman, truck driver and salesman for a few years until he converted to the Catholic Church in 1938 at the age of twenty-five. As a precaution, he was baptized on April 16, 1938. What motivated him to this conversion has not been recorded. He then attended Providence College until in 1942 he entered the Dominican novitiate. Six months after his profession he asked for a dispensation of his temporary vows. As World War Two was still raging in 1943, he was drafted and spent two years in the Navy, but the only overseas service he saw was at the Naval Base in Trinidad as a pharmacy mate, third class, in its hospital. After his release he applied for admission to our Congregation. Professed on September 8, 1948 at Ridgefield, CT, he did his senior seminary studies at Ferndale, earning a B.A. and a B.D. and during summer sessions a M.Ed. at Duquesne. On June 5, 1953 he was ordained in Ferndale at the age of forty.

After serving for one year as an assistant at St. Benedict's African-American parish in Detroit, he was posted to Duquesne University. He taught there for five years in its small theology department. From 1962 on he had a series of short appointments at Charleston, SC, Bay City, MI, Phoenix, AZ and Millvale, PA. After functioning as an assistant in Tiverton, RI, for one year and then at Bay City, where his main function was a hospital chaplaincy until 1985, he served as community bursar at Cornwells' retirement home for one year before becoming chaplain to the Holy Family Convent in Danville, PA. It was a job he loved and performed very conscientiously. When he was in his mid-seventies his robust health began to breakdown and in 1989 he went into retirement at Bethel Park. He died there of a heart attack six years later.

Among the numerous papers he left behind there was a large box filled with sermons and homilies delivered in the various places where he had worked, showing how carefully he prepared his ministry of the Word.

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