

Father Stransky, Ecumenical And Interfaith Pioneer

Paulist Father Thomas Stransky, credited internationally as a pioneer in the Catholic Church's ecumenical and interfaith relations stemming from the Second Vatican Council, died Sept. 3, his 89th birthday, at the residence of the Little Sisters of the Poor in Totowa, N.J.

Father Stransky oversaw the drafting of three important council documents: "Unitatis Redintegratio," the decree on ecumenism; "Nostra Aetate" ("In Our Time"), the declaration on Catholic Church relations with other religions; and "Dignitatis Humanae," the decree on religious freedom.

"He was part of the original staff of the (Vatican) Secretariat for Promoting Christian Unity. In many ways, he helped engineer many of the decisions that were made during the council," said John Borelli, special assistant to the president for interreligious initiatives at Georgetown University.

Father Stransky joined the secretariat in 1960 at the invitation of the future Cardinal Johannes Willebrands, secretary of the new Vatican office.

After the council, the priest participated in theological dialogues with Anglicans, Methodists and evangelical

communities. He ended his time with the secretariat in 1970 but remained a consultant for more than 30 years.

He participated in the World Council of Churches' assemblies around the world from 1968 to 1998 and was involved in the Joint Working Group between that organization and the Catholic Church.

He was elected as the first president of the Paulist Fathers based in Manhattan. Previous community leaders held the title of superior general.

During his eight-year tenure, the community grew in membership, allowing it to take on 11 additional parishes and the chaplaincies at several university Newman Centers.

In 1988, he was invited to serve as rector of the Tantur Ecumenical Institute in Israel, where he remained on the staff for 20 years.

A native of Milwaukee, he was ordained a Paulist priest in 1957 and a year later was sent to Europe for doctoral studies before joining the Vatican secretariat.

A Funeral Mass was celebrated Sept. 10 at St. Paul the Apostle Church in Manhattan. His cremains will be interred at a later date. —CNS

Deacon Seymour, Served Newburgh Parish

Deacon John (Jack) Seymour, who served for more than three decades at St. Francis of Assisi parish in Newburgh, died Aug. 14 at his home in New Windsor. He was 94.

He founded the food pantry at St. Francis of Assisi, which was dedicated in his name in 2016. He was a fourth-degree and past grand knight of the Knights of Columbus Council 444 and a member of the Catholic War Veterans.

The parishes of Sacred Heart and St. Francis of Assisi, which merged last year, have been renamed as St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta parish.

Deacon Seymour was also past chaplain of the Cronomer Valley Fire Company in the Town of Newburgh.

Born in Grand Rapids, Mich., he

served in the U.S. Navy during World War II. He was ordained as a permanent deacon by Cardinal John O'Connor at St. Patrick's Cathedral in 1986.

He earned a business degree from Pace University and was a salesman for Peter A. Frasse and Co.

His daughters, Michele Seymour, Laurie Seymour, Maureen Seymour and Jeannine McCauley, and sons, Christopher Seymour and Joel Seymour, survive him. He was predeceased by his wife of 70 years, Pat; his son, Brian; and sisters, Mary Lou Walworth and Shirley Seymour.

Auxiliary Bishop Peter Byrne offered the Funeral Mass Aug. 19 at St. Francis of Assisi Church, Newburgh. Burial with military honors was in Mount St. Francis Cemetery, New Windsor.

Sister Marie Corinne, Served in Hong Kong

Sister Marie Corinne Rost, M.M., who served in Hong Kong for 46 years, died Sept. 1 at Maryknoll Sisters Center in Ossining. She was 102.

Sister Marie Corinne was in Hong Kong, 1986-1995 and 1946-1983. She also served at the Maryknoll Sisters Center and in California.

Born in Jefferson City, Mo., she en-

tered the Maryknoll Sisters in 1937 and professed final vows in 1943. She earned a bachelor's degree in music from Manhattanville College of the Sacred Heart, Manhattan.

A Funeral Mass was offered Sept. 6 in the main chapel of Maryknoll Sisters Center. Burial was in Maryknoll Sisters Cemetery.

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