



Father David Patrick Reid, ss.cc.

March 9, 1942 - April 19, 2022

Everything changes when we look at life through the hermeneutics of the bible. John the Evangelist says that all the books in the world could not tell the story of Jesus. However, there are many ways to celebrate the story of our redemption, as we recall Fr. David Patrick Reid, ss.cc., who died in Boston on April 19, 2022, at age 80.

David devoted much of his life to living the Gospel of Jesus, illustrated in the life and mission of the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, to contemplate, live and announce to the world God's love.

Father David was born in Dublin, Ireland, on March 9, 1942, to Alexander and Elizabeth (Quinn) Reid. During the Second World War, life in Ireland was frugal and centered on the family and church. Growing up with the practice of night adoration in the Home, an apostolate promoted by the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts to help the family pray, was something which made a lasting impression on David.

Entering the Novitiate in 1959 in Cootehill, Ireland, he made his first profession the following year. David then went on to Queen of Peace Mission Seminary in Jaffrey, New Hampshire, where he professed his final vows in 1963 and became a Deacon in 1965. Father David was ordained a priest on June 12, 1966, in Ireland.

Father David went on to further studies at the Catholic University of America in Washington DC and earned an STL in Theology in 1967. He did graduate scripture study in Rome, where he received a License in Sacred Scripture (SSL) from the Pontifical Biblical Institute in 1970. For eighteen years, he taught scripture at the Washington Theological Union in Washington DC, and then returned to Rome. In 1983, he completed a doctoral degree in Biblical Theology (STD) at the Pontifical Gregorian University.

Father David once said "the best spiritual direction I have received is that my study is in service of prayer. I study to pray". And indeed, he shared this knowledge of church and sacred scriptures wherever he was assigned, being always pastorally engaged in offering Adult Education classes in parishes and directing retreats.

Father David left academia to experience a more pastoral life, heading to the inner-city of Rochester, NY. where for eight years he served as Pastor for the parishes of Sts. Peter and Paul and St. Francis.

In 1999, he was named as Pastor of Our Lady of Assumption, New Bedford, MA before being elected Provincial for the USA East Province from 2000 to 2006. In 2007 at the end of his Provincialate, Father David served in India for almost four years, three years as the first regional superior in the history of the Sacred Hearts in India and another year as a Formator. The Region of India is now a thriving community.

Unfortunately, because of visa problems, Father David was required to leave India in 2011. As a consequence, he returned to the USA and was named Pastor of St. Margaret of Scotland in Seat Pleasant, Maryland. He served as the Pastor for three years, and due to a lack of priest personnel to secure a future for the province, David was the last Sacred Hearts Priest to serve the parish.

In 2015, Father David was then called back to the Eternal City to work as a Postulator General for the Congregation in presenting SSCC causes to the Vatican for canonization. The Roman case for the cause of beatification of Father Esteban Gumucio, ss.cc. was one of Father David's assignments, and he received a visceral experience of the manifestation of the Congregation's life and mission in Chile.

In 2019, he finally settled into retirement, but as he would say, not "fully retired" but "semi-retired". He spent a year at Sacred Hearts Retreat Center in Wareham, MA, and then undertook pastoral work again in Our Lady of Assumption in New Bedford, MA, until he was called back to Damien Residence, where he joined his fellow Irish classmates from the seminary who are also retired.

In 2021, Father David was made Director of the National Enthronement Center, an Apostolate of the Enthronement of the Sacred Heart in the Home. Most recently, he was made Director of the Damien Residence, mainly for the retired and less-active members of the Congregation.

Father David had courageously battled cancer for some time, living life as Kairos. During his treatment, he remained steadfast and optimistic, and people were in awe of his tenacity in fighting the disease. He was not going to be easily defeated, seeking counsel and advice from top doctors offering innovative ways to fight the disease. Two weeks after his last treatment, he complained of pain, but he never stopped working. He continued as a chaplain at Our Lady's Haven Skilled Nursing Home in Fairhaven, MA, and was he was prepared to celebrate Holy Week with the residents.

Father David desired to be part of the repair of the world, a desire that never left him from the day reparative adoration was introduced to him as a child to the day he took his last breath. He was a healing for the people that cared for him on the day he died.

His last words were "I am empty" and "I am thirsty." These were also the last words of Jesus during his passion and death. While Father David grasped for comfort during his last hours of this life, he was for those in the ICU room the face of Christ. Through the hermeneutic spiral of life, Father David's ruach continues to heal us by his legacy as a brother, priest, scholar, friend, colleague, and a person of such great hesed of the spirit of Christ.

In addition to his brothers and sisters of the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts throughout the world, Father David is survived by his siblings, Mary, Margaret, and Alexander, 10 nephews, four nieces and 24 grand nieces and nephews. He was pre-deceased by his brother Stephen, sisters Therese and Elizabeth and his stepmother Mary, who married his father after the death of David's mother when he was three. Mary mothered the family lovingly until she died at age 96.

A Funeral Mass will be celebrated at St. Joseph's Parish in Fairhaven, Massachusetts on Tuesday, May 3rd, 2022, at 10:30 AM followed by burial in the Sacred Hearts Community Cemetery. Visiting hours will take place at St. Joseph prior to the funeral, beginning at 8:30 AM. Principal celebrant will be SSCC Provincial, Reverend Lane Akiona, ss.cc. May he rest in the Eternal Peace of the Hearts of Jesus and Mary.