James Haggerty, OFM

1925 - 1991

Fr. James (Cairnan) Haggerty, OFM, was born Jan. 15, 1925 in Lee, Mass. After two years in the United States Army, he entered Holy Cross College and graduated in 1949. He was received into the novitiate in 1950, professing temporary vows one year later. Fr. James made his solemn profession in 1954 and was ordained in 1955.

He had a full life, and a rich, varied career as a friar. After teaching at Bishop Timon High School, Buffalo, N.Y., he went to Archbishop Walsh High School in Olean, N.Y., where he served as teacher, guidance counselor, assistant principal, principal and guardian of the community. Fr. James was director of youth retreats at Christ House in Lafayette, N.J., from 1969 to 1974.

From 1974 to 1987, he filled the positions of assistant director of formation for ministries, and Provincial director of the deacon internship at Holy Name College, Washington, campus minister at St. Bonaventure University, Allegany, N.Y., and vicar of the Brookline, Mass., friary. After two years in retreat ministry in Tampa, Fla., he was appointed guardian at St. Anthony’s Friary in Butler, N.J.

He died on Feb. 7, 1991 at St. Joseph Hospital in Paterson, N.J. Fr. James was 66 years old, a professed friar for 39 years and a priest for 35 years.