Father William T. Penderghest, ss.cc. passed away on Thursday, March 26, 2020 in Harlingen, Texas after a brief hospitalization. Fr. Bill, who celebrated his 78th birthday on January 28 was born in Philadelphia, PA to William and Edith (Connolly) Penderghest.

Entering the Novitiate of the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary in Fairhaven, MA on September 1, 1960, he made his final profession to the Congregation on September 14, 1964, and was ordained to the priesthood on June 7, 1967 in Jaffrey Center, NH.

Fr. Bill’s first assignment was as Associate Pastor at Holy Redeemer Parish in Chatham Massachusetts and he went on in that capacity to minister in parishes in Fairhaven, MA, Rochester, NY and Harlingen, TX. From 1984 to 1997 he served as Development Director and Treasurer for the USA East Province of the Congregation, developing the province’s first computerized system.

From 2001 through 2007 Fr. Bill answered the call of the Congregation’s General House in Rome and was appointed as General Econome (Treasurer) for the worldwide community. Fluent in the Spanish language, he also served as simultaneous translator for General Chapters in El Escorial, Spain, Rome, Italy, and the Enlarged General Councils in Quito, Ecuador and Poitiers, France.

From 1977 to 1984, he was assigned as Pastor of Queen of Peace Church in Harlingen, TX where he led the parish community in the construction of their new church. In 2008 he returned there as Pastor, a position he held until his retirement in October 2017.

Father Bill is survived by his SSCC Brothers around the world. Funeral arrangements are pending at this time. May he Rest in Peace with our Lord.