

Rev. Vance Z. Thorne

Vance Thorne Obituary

BORDENTOWN -- Rev. Vance Z. Thorne, SVD, 83, of the Divine Word Missionary Community, died Tuesday at St. Francis Medical Center, Trenton.

Born in Bath, NC on Nov. 7, 1921 to Zebulon Vance Thorne and Mary Barrow Thorne. At an early age, his family moved to Washington, NC and he enrolled at Mother of Mercy Catholic School.

While in the primary grades of Mother of Mercy, Father Thorne accepted the call from God to join the priesthood. He never wavered from this calling and after graduating from Mother of Mercy High School in June 1940, he enrolled in St. Augustine's Seminary of the Divine Word Missionary Order in Bay St. Louis, MS.

Father Thorne was ordained as a priest on June 24, 1953 by Bishop J. O. Bowers, SVD at St. Augustine's Seminary. His first assignment was in Jackson, MS, where he served as assistant pastor and teacher at Holy Ghost Church and School. Father Thorne was an inspirational leader and quickly gained a reputation as "builder". His other assignments were in Los Angeles, Waco, TX, Little Rock, AK, and Bay St. Louis, MS. In recent years he was assigned to the Divine Word Missionary Community in Bordentown.

Father Thorne never forgot his family, classmates and friends in Washington, NC. He celebrated his first solemn Mass at Mother of Mercy Church on Sept. 27, 1953. He also celebrated his 25th anniversary Mass at Mother of Mercy in June 1978 and his 50th anniversary Mass at Bordentown in July 2003.

Survivors are his brother George T. Thorne (Marian) of Durham, NC; half-sisters Rosa Hart of New York City, Blanche Hart of Bronx, NY, Mary Gibbs of Washington, NC; many nieces, nephews, friends, and associates.

A concelebrated Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated 11 a.m. Saturday in St. Mary Roman Catholic Church, 45 Crosswicks St., Bordentown.

Burial will follow in St. Mary Cemetery.

Calling hours will be 7 p.m. Friday at Divine Word Residence, 101 Park St., Bordentown and 10-11 a.m. Saturday at St. Mary Church.

Memorial may be made to Divine Word Missionaries.

Arrangements are by the Huber-Moore Funeral Home.

To plant trees in memory, please visit the [Sympathy Store](#).