



*Joseph Spoerl, S.D.S.*

<i>Date of Birth</i>	<i>October 27, 1925</i>
<i>Date of Commitment</i>	<i>May 22, 1994</i>
<i>Date of Death</i>	<i>March 8, 2005</i>

*Joseph Spoerl was born and raised in Milwaukee. After graduating from Marquette University, Joe worked as a Manufacturers Rep for 38 years selling sporting goods and fishing equipment. In his biography, he noted that he was named the Florence City, Wisconsin "Tree Farmer of the Year" in 1977.*

*Joe was a devoted husband to Pat and a loving father to four children,; Joe Jr., Margie, John and Joan.*

*He was a long time member of St. Jude Parish in Wauwatosa where he was actively involved in the life of the parish. He also volunteered at St. Mary's Nursing Home for many years as a sacristan, Eucharistic Minister and "wheelchair pusher".*

*Joe made his commitment, along with his wife, Pat, as a Lay Salvatorian on May 22, 1994. He was involved with the Ulster Project of Greater Milwaukee, a non-profit ecumenical peace project which brought together teens from Northern Ireland and the United States. Joe and Pat were honored by the Sisters of the Divine Savior with their "Together in Mission" Award in 2005.*

*Joe was beloved by his family as noted in the thoughts recorded by his children. On the occasion of his 72<sup>nd</sup> birthday, his daughter Joan stated "we honor and recognize you for your dominant qualities, most of which we hope we inherited – an openness to new and enriching experiences, sensitivity to all kinds of people, your sense of fun and your seemingly boundless love and generosity".*

*At his funeral, Joe Jr. shared this beautiful reflection..."Our family has had some happy times and some not-so-happy times. Through it all, Dad remained faithful to his wife and children. He made promises, and he kept them – to his family and to his God. I think it is fitting that Dad was named for St. Joseph, the patron saint of husbands, fathers and workers. St Joseph is also the special patron of those facing death. The death of St. Joseph is never actually mentioned in the Gospel. He is there at the Nativity but gone by the Passion. He fades into the background. St. Joseph was a just man who stood by his family and never drew much attention to himself, letting his wife and son take the limelight instead. As he lay dying, I reminded my father of what a powerful patron he had in St. Joseph. May St. Joseph help us all to keep faith to the end." What a special tribute to a special man! Farewell, Joe, may you rest in peace.*