



Found in his top drawer, among his official papers, was the text to the following poem, copied by his own hand and standing out, as if it was a text to which he wanted easy and frequent access. It is a sonnet by the great Renaissance artist, Michelangelo:

*Now hath my life across a stormy sea,
like a frail bark, reached that wide port where all
Are bidden, are the final judgement fall
of good and evil deed to pay the fee.*

*Now know I well how that proud phantasy
Which made my soul the worshipper and thrall
of earthly art, is fain; how criminal
is that which all men seek so willingly.*

*These amorous thoughts which were so slightly dressed
What are they when the double death is nigh?
The one I know for sure, the other dread?*

*Painting nor sculpture now can lull to rest
my soul, that turns to His great love on high
whose arms to clasp us on the cross are spread.*

Fr. George S. Ferenczy was born on May 17, 1920 in Budapest. He graduated from public high school in Hungary and took the habit in the Cistercian monastery of Zirc on Aug. 29, 1937, where he studied theology. He was ordained to the priesthood on May 16, 1944. He taught in the Cistercian School of Budapest after obtaining his diploma of teaching Hungarian and French from the University of Budapest.

During the Communist takeover in 1948, he left the country and came to the United States. He continued his studies in music, obtaining a B.M. in piano at the Milwaukee Conservatory in Wisconsin in 1951. Before coming to Texas he taught in various schools and colleges in Buffalo and San Diego.

He was the first Cistercian to come to Texas where he first resided and taught at Our Lady of Victory in Ft. Worth. He was on the first faculty of the University of Dallas at its inception in 1956, where he taught Music and Piano until 1970. Afterwards Fr. George taught at Ursuline Academy and Mount St. Michael. He remained the chaplain of the sisters of Charity at Mount St. Michael until his death.

A brilliant musician and pianist, Fr. George was the first conductor of the Irving Symphony from 1963-66. Up to the last week of his life he held a weekly mass for elementary school children at Mount St. Michael, delighting them with his homilies which were full of humor, zest and enthusiasm.

He died in his sleep on February 19, 1999.

FR. GEORGE

- 1920-1999
- Born: May 17, 1920
- Entered Zirc on Aug. 29, 1937
- Ordained: 1944
- Moved to Our Texas: 1953
- Died: Feb. 19, 1999