

Rev. Fr. David L. Reddy O.F.M. K2BUI - CEØAE *1924-1985* Brother David was a Franciscan educator in the Order of Friars Minor. Friars are Brothers and taught the arts, sciences and theology. Their skills were highly sought after. Dave Reddy was born on Staten Island N.Y., January 2nd 1924 - He was inspired to enter St. Joseph's Seraphic Seminary in Callicoon, New York.

We are not yet aware how Dave obtained his desire to enter into the radio wireless world, but he would eventually be a much sought after rare DX station on Easter Island (Rapa Nui) in the Pacific. He gave countless stations the thrill to work into Easter Island, that unique spot in the Pacific Ocean, a Chilean protectorate. His QSL manager was Mary Ann WA3HUP which made a quick and generous reply to all of his QSL verification card requests from we the hungry new country addicts DXCC award.

Our subject was received into the Province's Novitiate 13 August 1945 at St. Bonaventure Friary in Paterson, N.J. and professed temporary vows 14 August 1946. Making his profession of solemn vows 17 September 1949 and ordained a priest June 29, 1951.

Spending his first year in ministry at Siena College, Loudonville, N.Y., then transferred to Bishop Timon High School, Buffalo, N.Y. He taught algebra, general science and religion there at Bishop Timon until 1965. His devotion to the Boy Scouts of America program earned him the rank of Eagle Scout and he was inaugurated into the Order of the Arrow. He also served as moderator at Bishop Timon for the ham radio club and the Chess Club. The Chess Club to this day at Bishop Timon honors Fr. David by honoring his name; "Fr. David Reddy Chess Club," in Buffalo, N.Y.



Lenny K5OVC ex W2OVC retired NYC police officer knew Father Dave personally in the early days and had some excellent words to offer about his late friend Brother Dave.

Lenny said; "Father Dave was up beat and jolly and a very smart man." He first met Fr. Dave in the 50s who had a 31st Street NYC location of his order which fed the derelicts and homeless of the city and gave handouts to the poor.

There was vandalism and thefts in the area of the NYC mission which was

Lenny's beat, telling Fr. Dave about being around some of the street people. Lenny remembered some of Fr. Dave's prayers at breakfast get-togethers, praying for good radio conditions so the faithful could work a new country on the bands! True to form of a dedicated DX'er.

On Rapa Nui (Easter) Father Dave gave English tour guides on the remote Island for the folks vacationing in their yachts for a donation to the Holy Cross Church locally. Items were sent to the Island such as peanut butter, jelly and med supplies. Continued on page two.

It was learned that customs on the mainland would remove their share and reseal the packages. (Always known as the midnight requisition!) If you sent 6 jars of peanut butter, the Islanders would get 4 to whom the box was addressed and two would be missing to the dreaded midnight requisition.

There was a radio request for a boxes of Niacin (Vitamin B3 or PP) , it didn't arrive in time and they shipped out more Niacin. Meanwhile Lenny and wife used some Niacin and broke out in a rash and they notified the island, they all had a laugh and eventually the first shipment arrived on Rapa Nui. Apparently shipping connections were not the best because of flights from the Chilean mainland.



The only thing we know about Fr. Dave's demise was simply he came down with a fever, there were no antibiotic meds available and they couldn't get emergency air service to transport him to a hospital. It was 6 hours by jet to the mainland.

David was a very busy man, he served the church flock also the local Rapanui jail and Rapanui at the leper colony.

Today 29 Sept 2010 a note from Easter Island Foundation Ms Georgia Lee, Yes, Father David Reddy is indeed buried on

Easter Island, in the cemetery on the outskirts of Hangaroa pictured. I have no idea the cause of death but I have seen his grave in my days on the Island. Sincerely, Georgia Lee, Easter Island Foundation. A reply was immediately sent to Ms Lee. In further communications with Ms Lee, she advised the rectory was next to the church and his ham station was situated in there. She couldn't recall any antennas outside.



Ms. Lee said; "Fr. Dave was generous with his time giving many radio fone patches to the students and archeologists staying there on the Island in the 1980s for which she was one." The Father loved cats and had several in the rectory. He was in need for cat food and baked beans and had those that knew him bring some canned goods with them when visiting the Island.

One of the best accomplishments was replacing the old plaster statues in the church

with artisan carved saints that showed the talent and dedication of the local Rapanui wood carvers. The saints are remarkable and distinctive and a source of pride amongst the local residents, Ms Lee said; "It has been many years since I've been back on the Island but I recall a nice headstone that was created for his grave. I don't recall the inscription at the moment, but the locals had put flowers on his grave." -Thanks to Lenny K5OVC and Ms Georgia Lee of Easter Island Foundation for their memories of a fine person and unique Island. Appreciative to K8CX files and the 1977 picture of Fr. Dave on the F6BUM dot com. BSA material Also Franciscan Brothers -- W8SU 2010