Father John Anthony Ward, S.S.
(1914 – 2009)

On February 25, 2009, Father John A. Ward, S.S., died at St. Charles Villa in Catonsville Maryland. At age 94, Father Ward was the most senior member of the U.S. Province of the Society of St. Sulpice. For many years he has been one of the province's most esteemed and highly regarded members.

Father Ward was born in Pittsburgh on May 3, 1914. He attended Sacred Heart Seminary in Detroit and St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore where he earned the S.T.L. degree in 1939. He was ordained for the Archdiocese of Detroit on June 3, 1939.

After joining the Society of St. Sulpice in 1940, Father Ward was first assigned for one year to the faculty of St. Charles College in Catonsville, Maryland. Then he was transferred to St. Joseph's College in Mountain View, California, where he served for the next fourteen years, except for one year, 1944-45, during which he completed his Sulpician formation program and earned a masters degree at The Catholic University of America in Washington, DC.

From 1954 until 1965, Father Ward served as rector of St. Stephen's Seminary in Kaneohe, Hawaii, and he is still remembered fondly by many people in Hawaii. He then served for three years on the faculty of St. Thomas Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky, and from 1968-75 he was principal of St. Joseph's High School in Mountain View, California. From 1975-81, Father Ward was personnel aide to the Provincial Superior, and he served as a member of the Provincial Council from 1974-76. From 1981-86, Father Ward returned to Hawaii, where he served as a consultant at St. Stephen's Center in Kaneohe.

Father Ward retired in 1986, and moved to St. Charles Villa, where he lived for the past twenty-three years, mostly in good health and with much pastoral service as a retired priest. Father Ward's Funeral Liturgy took place on March 3, 2009, at Our Lady of the Angels Chapel in Catonsville, Maryland. Father Thomas Ulshafer, the Provincial Superior, was the celebrant of the Mass of Christian Burial and Father Thomas Hurst, who had served with Father Ward at St. Joseph's College, preached a very moving homily.

Father Ward was buried at the nearby Sulpician Cemetery. May this good priest and Sulpician rest in peace.