



PROMINENT ASSUMPTIONIST Archbishop George Andrew Beck (1904-1978)

George Andrew Beck was born in Streatham, in south London. He was educated at Clapham College and later at the Assumptionist College of St Michael at Hitchin in Hertfordshire. Undertaking his theological studies in England and Belgium, he made his final vows in 1926 and, at the age of 23, was ordained in 1927.

He began his priestly life in the education apostolate, first as a teacher in Hitchin, then as its director. In 1944 he assumed direction of the Assumptionist college in Nottingham, The Becket School, and in 1948 he was appointed coadjutor Bishop of Brentwood and titular bishop of Tigias. He succeeded as Bishop of Brentwood in 1951 and was subsequently Bishop of Salford from 1955 to 1964.

As Bishop of Salford he continued the substantial expansion of new parishes and schools begun by his predecessor Henry Vincent Marshall to implement the Education Act. Beck was an educational expert and successfully led negotiations with successive governments to better the position of Catholic schools across the country and give them equal footing with state-subsidized institutions. In 1964 he was appointed Archbishop of Liverpool, from which he resigned at the age of 71 in 1976.



~~St. Joseph's Cathedral, St. Paul, Minnesota, designed by Philip Johnson and John Burgee. The dome is a prominent feature of the building.~~



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