

Legacy Project

July 22nd

Brother Sylvanus (Henry) Nichols, C.S.C.

born: 12 October 1891

died: 22 July 1959



Sylvanus was born in West Grinstead, Sussex, England. He was orphaned in England and came to Canada in his early teens. He worked on a farm in Ontario and moved to the midwest, and worked in Iowa and Nebraska. In 1927, he joined Holy Cross and went to Watertown. He had to first, be re-baptized and confirmed, since there were no canonical documents found from the orphanage in England. He went to the novitiate at Notre Dame where he made first vows in 1929. Sylvanus learned to be an excellent cook. His first assignment was to cook at Moreau Seminary, then at Dujarie Hall. He moved on to cook at other institutions: Holy Trinity in Chicago, Holy Cross Seminary in North Easton, and the Foreign Mission Seminary in Washington, D.C. In 1941 he was assigned to join the cooking staff at Columba Hall where he served for 15 years. Sylvanus was of 'short stature' and on his 25th jubilee, his fellow cooks produced a cake that was almost bigger than he was. He always went about his daily tasks cheerfully and conscientiously, in his humble, and important occupation.

Humble yourself before God and He will raise you up.

-- 2 Peter 5:6

The preparation of good food is merely another expression of art, one of the joys of civilized living. -- Dione Lucas