

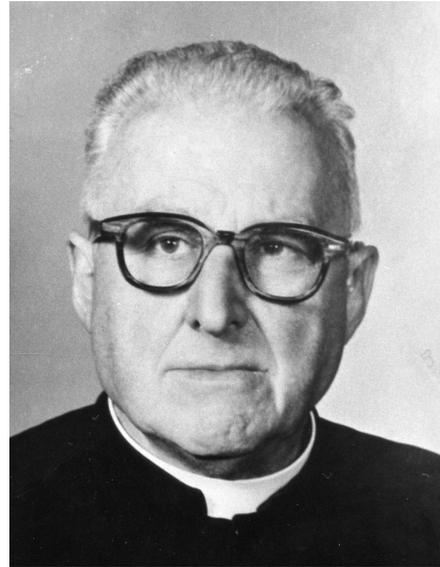
Legacy Project

September 12th

Brother Godfrey (Walter) Vassallo, C.S.C.

born: 4 December 1893

died: 12 September 1974



Godfrey was born in Halifax, Nova Scotia and studied in schools there. He joined Holy Cross at Notre Dame in 1910. He completed his high school courses and went to the novitiate, making his first vows in 1912. He earned a bachelor's degree in 1921. His teaching career began at Holy Cross High in New Orleans. He earned his master's of science degree in 1927, and was assigned to the University of Portland. He taught math, physics, and nuclear medicine for the next 45 years. He faithfully followed his three rules of teaching (*know your subject so well you teach it rather than read it to students; know how to deliver it; and be fair with students*). He was a respected authority in the fields of atomic and nuclear physics and taught courses to physicians and technicians. He was one of the founders of the Society of Nuclear Medicine. He was known as a tough, demanding, no-nonsense teacher. Yet "B.G." (as he was called by students) was one of those special teachers, the kind one holds in high esteem the rest of one's life. He loved all sports, having been a football and hockey coach and baseball umpire. He was the university photographer and the No. 1 repairman for all sorts of equipment. In 1962, the university awarded him the Doctor of Science degree 'honoris causa' for his accomplishments. He never wanted to be a "chief" because he did not like paperwork. He simply wanted to teach and work with people, which he did so admirably.

*Be an example to all in the way you speak and behave and
in your love and faith.*

-- 1 Timothy 4:12

Teaching is the profession that teaches all the other professions.

-- Author Unknown