

Legacy Project

October 12th

Brother Fergus (William) Burns, C.S.C.

born: 20 October 1911

died: 12 October 1976



Fergus was born in Watertown, New York and attended schools there. He went to the University of Notre Dame and earned a bachelor's degree in commercial science. While a student, he worked in the cafeterias. In 1935, he followed his vocation and joined Holy Cross, going to the novitiate where he made first vows in 1936. He worked in the treasurer's office at Notre Dame and was assigned to St. Edward's University in 1937. He taught in the Business College and served as assistant treasurer, manager of the bookstore, and prefect for 7 years. He also served in the Texas State Guard of the military academy at St. Ed's during the WWII years. In 1944, he was sent to the University of Portland where he taught and prefected for 4 years. In 1948 he returned to teach and prefect at St. Edward's University for 6 years. He earned a Master's Degree in Business Administration at the University of Texas. He returned to the Midwest in 1954 to teach for 5 years at Holy Trinity. He moved to Akron in 1960 to teach and serve as librarian, and then returned to teach in Chicago in 1967. Fergus was a certified lifeguard and instructor of water safety. He taught these skills for many years at the Brothers' summer camps in Waveland, Bankson Lake, and Gilmour. Fergus was a devoted fisherman and storyteller. His many assignments gave him the opportunity to perfect those skills and enrich them.

*How much wiser you have made me, more subtle
than my teachers. -- Psalm 119:99*

*It is easier to exemplify values than teach them.
-- Theodore M. Hesburgh*