

Legacy Project

December 8th

Brother Viator (George) Grzeskowiak, C.S.C.

born: 22 June 1922

died: 8 December 1990



Viator was born in Cicero, Illinois and attended schools there. He joined Holy Cross in 1942. He went to the juniorate in Watertown and novitiate, where he made his first vows in 1943. He studied at Notre Dame, earned a bachelor's degree in 1948, and a Master's Degree in Sociology in 1953. He began his teaching career at Holy Trinity, then taught at Cathedral High for 9 years. He was superior at St. Charles Boys' Home. He next taught at Akron and returned to Holy Trinity as principal until 1970. In 1975, he assumed a completely different role. For the next 15 years, he was the rector of Stanford Hall at Notre Dame and also worked in the Office of Student Affairs. He was an outstanding rector. He selected competent resident assistants and installed a pride in his students for their Hall. He knew how to say 'yes' and 'no' without the need of a committee. He had a rough exterior but a kind and generous heart. With his close friend, hall chaplain, Father Bob Griffin, they especially cared for the workers behind the scenes: the hall maids, janitors, and campus security. Viator was proud of his Polish heritage. He decorated his room with Polish art, subscribed to Polish journals, and enjoyed cooking and hosting Polish meals in his hall apartment. His good humor, wittiness, and leadership skills were admired by those who lived and worked with him.

I have made myself a servant for others to win over as many as possible.

-- 1 Corinthians 9:19

The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.

-- Mohandas K. Gandhi