

Legacy Project

November 14th

Brother Adrian (Ferdinand) Cygnar, C.S.C.

born: 8 April 1921

died: 14 November 1991



Adrian was born in Kewanee, Illinois and attended school there. In 1935, he went to Watertown and graduated from the high school program. He went to the novitiate and made his first vows in 1940. He began studies at Notre Dame and received a bachelor's degree in 1943. He taught at St. Anthony High in Long Beach for 5 years and Notre Dame High in Sherman Oaks for 3 years. He attended summer schools in the Los Angeles area and earned a master's degree. He came back to the Midwest in 1952, and taught at Reitz Memorial High in Evansville. In 1953, he went to Gilmour Academy where he spent the next 38 years as an outstanding biology teacher. He loved flowers, forests and field trips. Many remembered the hours he spent toiling in the greenhouse, and taking trips to the woods. His duties at Gilmour varied: teaching, athletic director, bus driver, yearbook moderator, and prefect of Tudor House. Former students eulogized Adrian at the wake service following his sudden death, commenting on how his teaching influenced them in careers in medicine, engineering or science.

Each person must do as determined, for God loves a cheerful giver.

-- 2 Corinthians 9:7

*The sun does not shine for a few trees and flowers, but for
the wide world's joy.*

-- Henry Ward Beecher