

Legacy Project

October 21st

Brother Vitus (Theodore) Schwartz, C.S.C.

born: 9 September 1894

died: 21 October 1993



Vitus was born in Massillon, Ohio and lived 11 months short of his 100th birthday. He joined Holy Cross in 1908 at the juniorate at Notre Dame when he was 12 years old. He went to the novitiate and made first vows in 1914. He began his teaching ministry at Holy Cross in New Orleans in 1918. He also taught at Sacred Heart College in Watertown, Central Catholic High in Fort Wayne and St. Edward's Military Academy in Austin. In 1929 he began a 33-year career working as a canvasser for the Ave Maria Press. His job was selling subscriptions door-to-door, city-to-city, listening to problems in households and bringing the good news of Jesus and devotion to Mary. He said he distributed about a million prayer leaflets, 3000 rosaries, and 60,000 scapulars. Life was rewarding but on occasion there were problems: being picked up by police as a peddler, bitten by dogs, and occasionally sleeping in seedy rooming houses. He was often invited to partake of meals with the families he visited. Vitus was an avid reader and loved to play cards --- especially bridge. He loved walking. He and Br. Armand made quite a pair collecting and selling golf balls along Dorr Road. He retired at Columba Hall in 1968 and was an inspiration to those he lived with.

*Say only good things that people need to hear;
things that will really help them. -- Ephesians 4:29*

*The ones who are really happy are those who have found
a way to serve. -- Albert Schweitzer*