

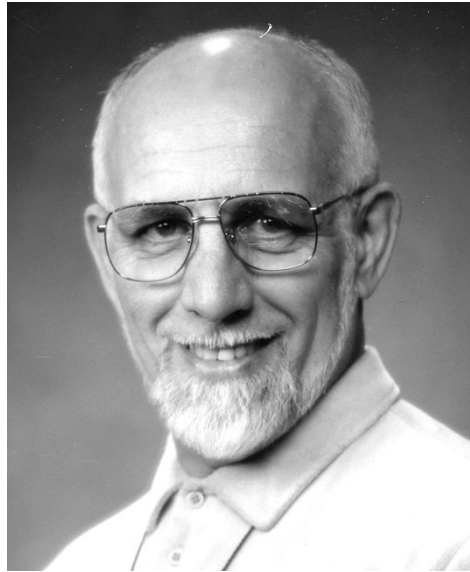
Legacy Project

May 12th

Brother Ralph Bernard Baird, C.S.C.

born: 20 June 1938

died: 12 May 1999



Ralph was born in Detroit, but both of his parents died when he was just eight years old. He and two brothers were raised in an orphanage. At the age of 13 he was sent to Boysville where the seed of his vocation was inspired by Br Gregoire Bleau. He graduated from Boysville and entered the novitiate at Rolling Prairie in 1956, and made his first vows in 1957. He began studies at St. Edward's University and earned a B.S. degree at DePaul University. From 1960 to 1964 he taught in Akron, Lakewood, River Grove, and Milwaukee. He was then assigned to Bangladesh in 1965. He served for 31 years on faculties of high schools in Dhaka, Bandura, and Chittagong. He was the Headmaster of St. Joseph's High School in Dhaka for 6 years. He was a symbol of courage and daring for his students. Nothing was considered impossible for him. He could go long distances on foot or bicycle. He was known as 'Mr. Fix-It,' in doing repairs. His love for the Bangladeshi people was evident when he joined the vice-province. In 1996, Ralph returned to the United States for treatment of a severely damaged heart. He was a candidate for a heart transplant, but systemic complications occurred two years after receiving it. Many messages came from Bangladesh after Ralph's death ... "He was a very generous person, always willing to help, so courageous, we've lost a treasure among us."

*Be brave and strong, go to work with courage and be steadfast
for the Lord God is with you. -- 2 Chronicles 28:20*

*To have courage for whatever comes in life - everything lies in that.
-- St. Teresa of Avila*