

October 17th

Brother Eligius (Walter) Ruscik, C.S.C.

born: 22 February 1915

died: 17 October 2004



Eligius was born in West Virginia and when the family moved to Grand Rapids, Michigan, he attended schools there. He joined the community in 1933 starting his training at Watertown. After professions his first assignment was to East Bengal or Bangladesh. He spent 21 years teaching at Holy Cross schools in Bandura, Dhaka and Ranikong. Health issues dictated that he return permanently to the U.S. in 1959. Eligius then taught for a total of 9 years at Archbishop Hoban and St. Joseph's in South Bend. He then worked in offices at Notre Dame and at Holy Trinity High for 8 years. Beginning in 1976, he spent 14 years teaching at Le Mans Academy in Rolling Prairie before retiring to Columba Hall. Eligius was a quiet and generous soul who had the ability to live an intense contemplative life while in an active community. He stressed the contemplative side of his life, seeking quiet, reflective periods of meditation. He held the requests of many persons and situations in his heart and regularly announced them during the intercessory prayer at the daily Liturgy. He faithfully recorded in his journals, God's action within his meek and generous soul ... truly an inspiration for all.

"Mary sat at His feet listening, Jesus said to Martha, You are anxious about many things ... Mary has chosen the better part." -- Luke 10:39-42

"I can now see the finish line and the Father is there, waiting to embrace me and all of humanity and all of creation that I am bringing with me."

-- passage from Br Eligius' own Journal