

Legacy Project

July 9th

Brother Francis Paul Rotsaert, C.S.C.

born: 4 September 1938

died: 9 July 2007



Francis was born in Cleveland, and attended St. Stephen's School and St. Edward High. He joined Holy Cross after graduation, went to Watertown and the novitiate, and made first vows in 1957. He studied at Notre Dame, earned his bachelor degree in 1961. He taught at Sacred Heart Military Academy; then at Holy Cross in River Grove, Central Catholic in Monroe, St. Joseph's in South Bend and at his alma mater, St. Edward. In 1968, he earned his master's degree at the University of Illinois. He returned to teach at St. Joseph's in South Bend and in 1973 became the principal. For the next 7 years, he earned a reputation as a dynamic, effective, and innovative leader. Francis studied at the University of Toronto for a year, and was rector of Holy Cross Hall at Notre Dame while teaching English courses. He started doctoral studies at the University of Indiana and completed his doctoral work in 1990. He joined the faculty at Siena Heights College in Adrian, Michigan. For the next 13 years, he was a consummate teacher of literature and composition, a beloved motivator, and a multi teacher-of-the-year recipient. He was a prolific writer, producing many articles which were published in academic journals. In 2003, Francis suffered a serious stroke at his residence. He required special care and treatment. Former students and friends visited him and remembered his cheerful personality and his personal concern for them.

Be an example to all in the way you speak and behave. Make use of your time by reading and teaching. -- 2 Timothy 4:12

A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops. -- Henry Brooks Adams