

Legacy Project

December 15th

Brother Joseph Andrew Dudek, C.S.C.

born: 30 November 1922

died: 15 December 2011



Joseph was born in Phoenix, Illinois and attended elementary and high school in Harvey. He graduated from Thornton High School in 1941, worked as a draftsman for 3 years and then entered the U.S. Navy in April 1944. He was an electronics technician, 2nd class and was discharged in 1946. He returned to the same company, but while in the Navy he had the idea of joining the religious life. He did so in January 1948, going to Watertown and the novitiate in Rolling Prairie making first vows in August 1949. He began studies at Notre Dame earning a B.S. degree in 1953 and a master's in 1961. His first assignment was to teach his favorite science and math subjects at Holy Trinity High School for 7 years. He taught at Gilmour Academy for 2 years and Monroe Catholic Central for 9 years. In 1970 he joined the first faculty at Holy Cross High School in River Grove where he taught for 18 years. He then served on the staff at the school and volunteered at a parish grade school. He had a creative hobby of collecting coupons and over the next 18 years it was estimated that he saved the Brothers community at River Grove as much as \$500 a month in food and equipment costs. Brother Joe was liked by his students since he was a calm quiet man who was dedicated and patient with everyone whether the gifted students or the less well-endowed. He was a great community man, his contribution was the lessons he learned as a child during the Depression years, a gift of being open and helpful to everyone.

I will instruct you and show you the way you should walk.

-- Psalm 32:8

Industriousness, thrift, and self-control are not sought because they create wealth, but because they create character.

-- Calvin Coolidge