Legacy Project

September 17

Brother Donald James Allen, C.S.C.

born: 22 March 1926

died: 17 September 2022



Donald was born in Wilmette, IL where he attended St. Joseph Elementary School and New Trier High School. It was at St. Joseph School that he first heard about the missionary activity of the Catholic Church. After a year at Loyola University, he served in the United States Navy. Returning to civilian life, he earned both a bachelor and master degree at Michigan State University. Donald joined the Brothers of Holy Cross in 1950 and worked briefly at Central Catholic High School in South Bend, IN, Vincentian Institute in Albany, NY, Catholic Central High School in Monroe. MI and St. Anthony High School in Long Beach, CA. Brother Donald then began his missionary career teaching math and science first in East Pakistan (now Bangladesh) then Ghana and finally Liberia. Among his many zoological fascinations, he was an avid fan of snakes, especially spitting cobras. After returning to the States, Brother Donald completed a Master of Arts in Religious Education at Boston College in 1976 and continued his education with additional graduate studies in science at several universities while ministering in several schools in the Midwest Province. In 2007, he retired at Notre Dame after 65 years of very active ministry. As his health and eyesight began to fail in 2017, he lived out his final years at Dujarié House in Holy Cross Village at Notre Dame.

The Sovereign Lord of my strength; he makes my feet like the feet of a deer, he enables me to tread on the heights." **Habakkuk 3:19**

"Every great story seems to begin with a snake." - Nicolas Cage