

Legacy Project

March 12th

Brother Donard (Louis) Steffes, C.S.C.

born: 10 December 1914

died: 12 March 2015



Donard was born in Carleton, MI, attended St. Joseph Elementary School and worked on the family farm until a nun suggested he become a Brother. He went to the juniorate in Watertown, WI in 1932 for high school studies and then to the novitiate and made his first vows in 1937. He studied physical sciences at Notre Dame and graduated in 1941 saying it was really a miracle of Divine Providence! He taught all the science and math subjects at Holy Cross High in New Orleans for 6 years and was athletic director and maintenance man. He held similar jobs at Holy Trinity, Gilmour Academy, and Memorial High in Evansville. In 1952 he joined the first faculty to open Notre Dame International School in Rome. In 1960 he returned to teach at Hoban High in Akron for 20 years. He initially felt out of touch with the new scientific advances, but NSF workshops updated his teaching methods. He was an innovative and creative teacher, building his own lab equipment and organizing a popular photography club. He inspired many into careers in engineering, science, and photography. He led a total of 54 week-long camping and wilderness trips to Minnesota during the summers. He taught Red Cross swimming and water safety classes for more than 40 years. In 1980 he went to Liberia to teach science for 5 years. He returned to teach water safety classes at St. Edward's University. He retired from teaching at the age of 95 to a life of prayer and his favorite hobbies of fishing, photography, communicating on the short wave radio and tinkering in his shop.

Entrust your works to the Lord and your plans will succeed.

-- Proverbs 16:3

Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm (and prayer).

-- Ralph Waldo Emerson