

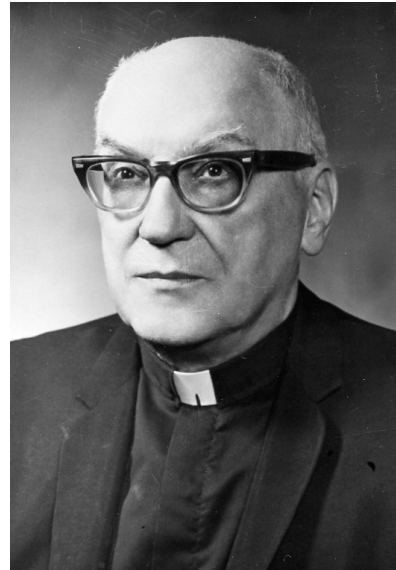
Legacy Project

October 14th

Brother Bonaventure (John) Foley, C.S.C.

born: 26 August 1904

died: 14 October 1986



Bonaventure was born in Janesville, Minnesota, a member of a very close-knit family. He joined the Brothers and went to the juniorate in Watertown in 1921, then the novitiate at Notre Dame. He made first profession in 1923. He studied at Notre Dame and earned a bachelor's degree. He taught in New Orleans and Indianapolis until 1934. Bonaventure's leadership qualities were prominent. He was a superior, a member of the provincial council, or the general council for the rest of his life. He was superior and taught in Evansville, Taunton, Watertown, Austin, and Dujarie Hall for 15 years. In 1950 he joined the Provincial Council. He served as secretary for 6 years and Assistant Provincial for 6 years. In 1962, he was the secretary of the General Council for a 6-year term. In 1968 he returned to Notre Dame to become the first superior of the new Holy Cross Brothers Center for 8 years. Bonaventure was a scholar of community history with a wide range of interests. His friendships included members of other religious communities, bishops, and especially the Franciscan Sisters (his own sister was a member). He enjoyed organization, making things work, and building community. His phenomenal memory of people and events was admired. His loyalty to Holy Cross was shown in his speeches, writings, interests, and actions.

I made him a witness to peoples, a leader and commander.

-- Isaiah 55:4

With courage and initiative, leaders change things.

-- Jesse Jackson