

Legacy Project

February 9th

Brother Leonard (Francis) Leary, C.S.C.

born: 13 May 1921

died: 9 February 1992



Leonard was born in Indianapolis and was a product of Cathedral High. He was influenced by Br. Leonard Zuber, and when he joined Holy Cross, took Leonard's name. . He made first vows in 1940. He began studies at Notre Dame, earned his bachelor's degree in 1944. Then followed a long and devoted career of teaching French and music for over 40 years. In 1951, Leonard earned a Master's Degree in Music Education from the Vandercook College of Music. He was the bandmaster for 31 years in high schools in New Orleans, Chicago, Lakewood, Monroe, Cathedral and in Phoenix. He had the "Midas Touch" in getting his band students to progress from noisy cacophony to well-tuned marching or concert music. He usually employed a few gimmicks to augment his annual concerts in schools. Leonard received the St. Cecilia Award in 1954 from the University of Notre Dame for outstanding contributions to Catholic bands. He had a joyful spirit and loved to go on camping trips. He was particularly fond of the Arizona sun where he lived with the Holy Cross community in Phoenix. His good friend, Br Just Paczesny concluded the eulogy at Leonard's funeral with the comment: *"I hope '76 Trombones' is played by the Angels as they greet Leonard as their latest Music Man."*

David commanded the brethren to play on musical instruments to make a loud sound of rejoicing. -- 1 Chronicles 15:16

Without music, life would be a mistake.

-- Friedrich Nietzsche