

Fr. John (Georges) Cochet, SCJ

1883-1949

Originally from Paris, Fr. Georges Cochet, SCJ, learned of the Priests of the Sacred Heart shortly after finishing his primary studies. Fr. Falluer, SCJ, an early disciple and close friend of Fr. Dehon, encouraged the young Cochet to enter the community.

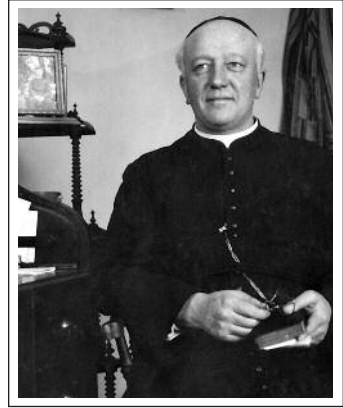
He attended the SCJ preparatory school at Clairefontaine, Belgium, and in 1905, Cochet was received as a novice. Fr. Andre Prevot, SCJ, was Cochet's spiritual director during his early years of formation. In 1906, he left for Louvain to complete his studies in philosophy and theology. Fr. Cochet was ordained in 1913.

While Fr. Cochet was completing his studies toward the priesthood, Fr. Dehon was traveling in Canada. In Alberta, Fr. Dehon met with a former classmate — Bishop Legal of St. Albert. The bishop pleaded with Fr. Dehon to lend him some of his priests. Fr. Dehon responded with the promise of six newly ordained SCJs.

The people of western Canada were scattered across immense prairies without churches or, until the Dehonians' arrival, priests. Throughout Alberta and British Columbia, the young missionaries began from scratch, building churches, schools and various residences. The first community house was in Edmonton.

Fr. Cochet didn't stay in the community house long though. Soon after it was built he started a fundraising tour throughout Canada and the United States. He later taught at Ste. Marie, Ill., and then spent two years as a pastor in Mapleville, Rhode Island. In 1930, he went back to Canada when the SCJs began ministry in the Diocese of Montreal. He was appointed regional superior and in 1936, established the SCJ residence on Boulevard Gouin. By this time, SCJ ministry in the West had ceased.

In 1940, he left Montreal for Alexandria because of ill health. On February 25, 1949, Father Cochet, one of the last of the French pioneers in Canada, died.



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