

# Br. Steve Cyr, SCJ

## 1919-2003

Br. Steve Cyr, SCJ, was a genuine “fox hole vocation.” During World War II he was a squad sergeant with 14 men under his command. Facing heavy attack during the battle to take Monte Casino “I promised God that if He saw fit to let me survive that when the war ended I would become a religious and give my life in service to mankind,” he said.

Wounded but not killed, Br. Steve served six years before his discharge in 1947. Soon after, he went to work at Ave Maria Press, remembering his battlefield promise. He looked at a couple of orders but that the SCJs were where call was calling him.

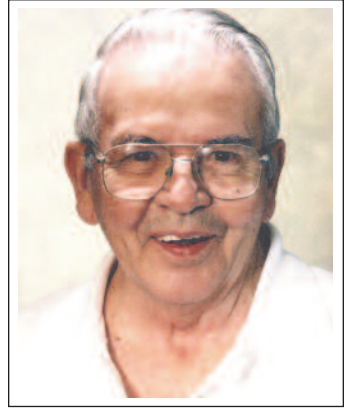
“In August, 1948, I was one of 20 candidates, mostly ex-GIs like myself, who started their studies with the Priests of the Sacred Heart.”

It was during these first years with the SCJs that he learned about the missions in South Dakota. “Br. Joe Banfield told me about South Dakota, but the things he told me did not create a desire to go to this area. In fact, after hearing him tell about all the rattlesnakes out there it was the last place I wanted to be.”

But it was the very place where Br. Steve served for 44 years, following his first profession in 1950.

He held a variety of positions at the school, but for many years served as dean of boys (back in the days when the students lived in dormitories instead of the home units they have now). A well-loved member of the St. Joe’s staff, one of the student homes is now named after Br. Steve.

Br. Steve retired in 1994 and joined the Villa Maria community in Wisconsin.



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