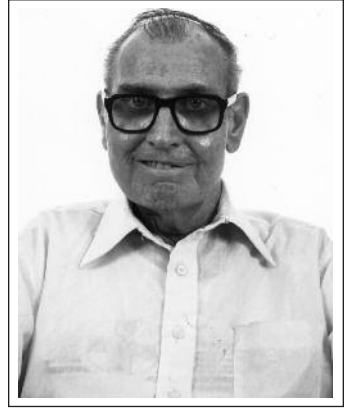


Br. John Grace, SCJ

1927-1985

Br. John Grace, SCJ, born in Chicago in 1927, became a candidate with the SCJs soon after his return from Germany, where he was stationed in the Army. He made his first profession on March 19, 1950, and his final profession on the same date four years later. His work with the SCJs constantly varied and took him around the country. Br. Grace's last ministry was at St. Margaret Hospital in Hammond, Indiana, where he was involved in hospital chaplaincy.



Br. John Grace, SCJ

Diagnosed with cancer, the last two years of his life were a constant struggle filled with pain. However, he rarely admitted to any discomfort.

"Fr. Dehon used to say, 'Let God swing the whip,'" said Br. John's friend, Fr. John Czyzynski, SCJ. "We don't need to take extraordinary mortifications to be purified. Just live, really live, and there will be enough suffering to purify us. And that surely happened to John."

Those who knew Br. John remember an often brusque, hurried type of man. Yet there was also a tender side that seemed to flourish even as his cancer progressed. "I am sure that each one of us who saw that transformation taking place could talk about things that we saw and would treasure about him," said Fr. John. "We have a child in us and as we get older, we get sophisticated and cloak that child over. And sometimes a transformation has to take place for that child to come to life again. It was beautiful to watch it taking place in John."

One of his ambitions in life was to be ordained a priest. "Yet, he didn't have to be ordained a priest," added Fr. John. "A priest is somebody who offers sacrifice and John did; the sacrifice of himself, his life."