

# Br. Martin Kelly, SCJ

## 1902-1986

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Br. Martin Kelly's relationship with the SCJs began with a dime. "I received an appeal from the monastery in 1930," he wrote. "Being unemployed, I put dime in an envelope and sent it in. Later, I sent in another donation when I had a job." He began receiving the *Mission Call* soon after and was inspired by an article written by Fr. John Emonts, SCJ, titled, "Missionary Brothers."

"I had thought about becoming a religious quite a few years before, but I was always burying those feelings until I received the *Mission Call*," said Br. Martin. He wrote to the SCJs, requesting admission into the community and soon found himself at Sacred Heart Monastery in Hales Comers.

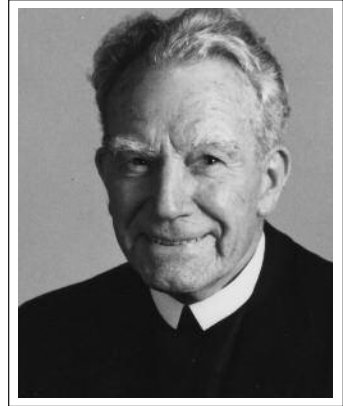
His first assignment after making vows was to go back to Philadelphia and visit his generous friends who had previously given money to the province. "I told my novice master that I was not a collector and he said that we are not all sent where we like," said Br. Martin.

It was not an easy assignment. Br. Martin arrived at the height of the depression. Banks were closed, friends were bankrupt, unemployment was high. "I heard that the archdiocese was about \$50 million in debt," said Br. Martin.

Times were hard, but Br. Martin never gave up. The income received from his work was the main support of the novitiate at Ste. Marie from 1936 to 1940.

Besides his success as a fundraiser, Br. Martin also found success on a rooftop. Before joining the SCJs, he considered opening his own roofing business and saved over \$1,000 to do so. Many of the SCJs' rooftop repairs were done by Br. Martin.

His greatest joy, however, was found in his vows. "The will of God seems to flood my soul with a heavenly peace and happiness that is beyond understandig or explanation," he said.



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