

Fr. Adolf Koller, SCJ

1902-1975

Artist, teacher, scholar—these are the words most often used to describe Fr. Adolph Angelico Koller, SCJ. He was born in Weiden, Bavaria, on June 17, 1902. Known as a serious student, Fr. Koller particularly enjoyed the arts and humanities. Besides the usual German, Latin, Greek and history courses, Fr. Koller also enrolled in classes on Egyptian hieroglyphics during high school.

In 1923, he entered the diocesan seminary in Regensburg. Six years later he entered the SCJ novitiate, and in 1932, he made his final vows. He was ordained to the priesthood in 1932.

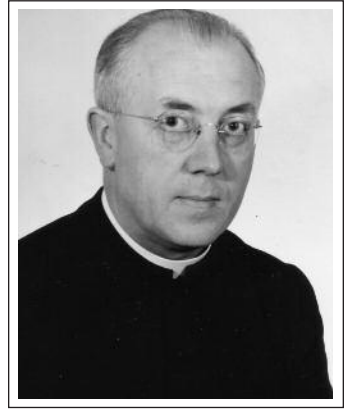
After ordination, Fr. Koller continued his studies at the University of Bonn and in Rome. He later taught, and completed special studies in archeology, art and culture.

In Europe, Fr. Koller's artistic skills were in constant demand. He restored artwork in ancient churches throughout Germany and neighboring countries, including the Santa Maria delle sette dolore in the Campo Santo Tedesco, Vatican City.

Fr. Koller transferred to the United States in 1936 to teach at Sacred Heart Monastery, and in 1942, became a naturalized American citizen. During the war years, he was the chaplain for several other religious communities, including the Benedictine Sisters, who worked at the monastery, and the Sisters of St. Joseph's Convent. He entered the Military Ordinariate in 1945 and was assigned as chaplain to the Prisoner of War Camp at General Billy Mitchell Field in Milwaukee.

He designed the chapel at Divine Heart Seminary, and Bishop Schlarman of Peoria, Ill., commissioned him to design new stained glass windows in the diocesan cathedral.

After 22 years in Hales Corners, Fr. Koller transferred to Great Barrington and later Victorville, to work with adult vocations. His last assignment was as a hospital chaplain in California.



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