

Fr. John “Jack” Nitzki, SCJ

1929-2005

Fr. John “Jack” Nitzki, SCJ, was a native of Chicago and first came to the Priests of the Sacred Heart as a young student at Divine Heart Seminary in Donaldson, Ind. He professed his first vows in 1948 and was ordained in 1956.

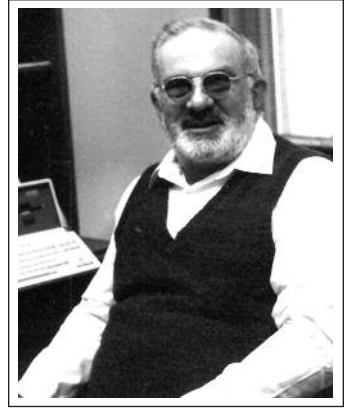
Much of his religious life was spent in education, either behind a desk as a student or in front of a blackboard as a teacher. Following philosophy studies at Sacred Heart Monastery in Hales Corners, Wis., Fr. Jack headed to Rome, where he earned a degree in theology from the Gregorian University and a

degree in canon law from the Lateran University. Back in the States, he also studied liturgy at St. John’s University in Collegeville, Minn. During his years of studies, he became proficient in several languages, including Spanish, German, Italian, Greek, French, Dutch and Latin.

His first teaching assignment was back at Divine Heart, where he taught for a year before leaving for his studies in Rome. Following the completion of his canon law degree in 1961, he returned to Sacred Heart, where he taught and served as prefect of studies. He later entered provincial administration, serving as a provincial councilor and as provincial secretary.

But not all his years of ministry were in the halls of academics. He did pastoral ministry at Immaculate Conception Church in Elmhurst, Il. (1977-1980), and at Our Lady of Guadalupe in East Chicago (1981-1985).

Then it was back to Milwaukee, where he served as a resource to both the province and the congregation on canonical issues. Writing about him soon after his death, Bishop Virginio Bressanelli, SCJ, former general superior, said that Fr. Jack’s canonical work was well-regarded. “I learned from him how to discriminate in certain cases. You know how highly he was looked upon in Vatican circles because their decisions always agreed with his analysis.”



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