

Fr. Thomas Simcox, SCJ

1907-2003

At 26, Fr. Tom Simcox, SCJ, was considered an “older vocation” when he came to the SCJs.

Originally from St. Louis, Fr. Tom only went to high school for a brief period of time before he had to take a job to help with the family finances. He was an office boy, an insurance company clerk and a power company worker before applying to the seminary.

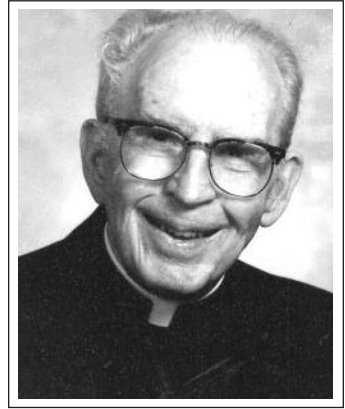
In 1927, he began studies with the Passionists. But after having been out of school for so long, he found it difficult to cram in the extra studies he needed to catch up.

He left the seminary, but still felt a religious calling. Eventually he found his way to the Priests of the Sacred Heart, who were known to accept older candidates.

The SCJs welcomed Fr. Tom and he professed his first vows in 1933. He studied philosophy and theology at Sacred Heart Monastery and was ordained to the diaconate and priesthood in 1940.

Fr. Tom’s first assignment was as treasurer of the novitiate community in Ste. Marie, Ill. In 1942, he moved to Lower Brule, S.D., where he was pastor of St. Mary’s Church. It was there, though a bit of misfortune, that he found that he had knack for fund raising. The church burned down and he had to find a way to rebuild it. Through much hard work and personal contact, he raised the needed funds and then some.

From 1948 to 1957, he ministered at Sacred Heart Church in Walls, Miss., and from 1957 to 1960 he was at St. Joseph Church in Clarksville, Texas. He then returned to fund raising full time, traveling the country for 13 years doing mission appeals. In 1973, he finally got off the road, serving first at St. Mary’s Church in Cleveland, and then as chaplain at Mother of Good Counsel Home in Normandy, Mo. In 1979, he retired but continued to do part time ministry at Sacred Heart Church in Walls. In 1981, he moved to the Sacred Heart retirement community in Pinellas Park, Fl., where he stayed until 1999. He was a member of the Villa Maria community when he died.



Fr. Thomas Simcox, SCJ