5-20-1985

Reverend Vincent R. Vasey, S.M. 1916-1985

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DAYTON, Ohio, May 20, 1985 -- Reverend Vincent R. Vasey, S.M., professor of law in the University of Dayton School of Law, died Saturday night, May 18, of cancer. He was 69 years old. Father Vasey was both a Church lawyer and a civil lawyer. During his career, he served as official representative of the Marianist religious order to the Vatican.

Father Vasey was born of April 30, 1916 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He took his first vows as a Marianist in 1933 in Dayton, and his final vows in 1937. He was ordained a priest in 1944.

A respected scholar, Father Vasey published in numerous journals and authored the *Life of Father Chaminade*, a book on the founder of the Marianists. He was fluent in seven languages.

Father Vasey was "postulator of the cause" of Father William Joseph Chaminade. In that capacity, he successfully made the case of the founder of the Marianists to be decreed "Venerable William Joseph Chaminade" in October 1974.

Father Vasey held eight academic degrees. He received his bachelor's degree from the University of Dayton in education and a master's degree in English from Western Reserve University (Cleveland).
After his seminary studies, he also earned a bachelor's degree (J.C.B.) in Canon Law from Catholic University (Washington, D.C.), a licentiate (J.C.L.) in Canon Law and a doctorate (J.C.D.) in Canon Law from Lateran University (Rome). He held the licentiate (S.T.L.) in Patristics (Study of Church fathers) and the doctorate (S.T.D.) in Patristics from the Institutum Patristicum Augustinianum (Rome). Finally, in 1977, Father Vasey earned the Juris Doctor (J.D.) degree in Civil Law from the University of Notre Dame.

His assignments as a Marianist included five years as teacher at Cathedral Latin School (Cleveland, 1936-1941), seminary study at St. Meinrad (Indiana, 1942-1945), teacher of Canon Law and rector of the Marianist Seminary (Fribourg, Switzerland, 1951-1966), and procurator general of the Marianists (Rome, 1966-1974).


Father Vasey was a classmate of President Emeritus Father Raymond A. Roesch, S.M., during his seminary training. The two also made their vows as Marianists together.

Father Vasey was considered one of the principal Marianist scholars and was widely consulted by his fellow religious. He was a member of the Provincial Chapter (governing body) of the Cincinnati Province of the Marianists and represented the Province
on four occasions at the General Chapter (worldwide meeting) of the Marianists.

Father Vasey is survived by one brother, Frank Vasey of Willow Grove, Pennsylvania, and by two nieces, Bonnie (Mrs. Jack) McDonald of Maple Glenn, Pennsylvania, and Joan (Mrs. Joseph) d'Aquila of Avalon, New Jersey.

The Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated Tuesday evening, May 21, at 7:00 p.m. in Immaculate Conception Chapel on the UD campus. Visitation will be from 4:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. in the chapel on the same day. Burial will be at Queen of Heaven Cemetery (Bergamo) following Mass.

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