

Father Robert Casper SDS



Birth: January 19, 1915

Profession: September 8, 1938

Ordination: February 5, 1944

Death: May 10, 1998

Buried in St. Nazianz

Father Robert Casper (birth name: Berthold Rudolph) was born in 1915 in Herman, Wisconsin, not far from St. Nazianz, where he attended Salvatorian Seminary for his high school studies and the first two years of college. He entered the Novitiate there in 1937 and made his profession of vows the following year, on September 8, 1938. He completed his studies at Divine Savior Seminary in Lanham, Maryland, and Catholic University in Washington, DC. He was ordained a priest in Lanham on February 5, 1944. For five years, Fr. Robert was a missionary in Colombia, South America, serving in parishes and teaching in the seminary. When he returned home, he was named dean of students and director of discipline at Jordan Seminary in Menominee, Michigan. Later, he ministered as the Superior of the community in Elkton, Maryland, where he also worked on the farm. In 1954, Fr. Robert spent a year in California, helping to establish St. Pius X Seminary in Rio Dell, after which he returned to South America and served another four years in the missions. He returned to California, to the seminary in Rio Dell, and helped it through its relocation to Galt, where he continued to teach. He then was pastor of Holy Cross Church in Bryte (West Sacramento), for eleven years. Afterwards, Fr. Robert assisted in several parishes in the northern California area until 1986, when he semi-retired to the community in Chilton, Wisconsin. In 1994, declining health brought him to the Jordan Hall community in Milwaukee. The following year, his worsening emphysema demanded more intense care at St. Mary's Home in Manitowoc, where he died peacefully on May 10, 1998. He was buried in the community cemetery in St. Nazianz. A kind and gentle man, he is remembered fondly for his teaching and his example. Fr. Robert was also a gifted artist who crafted numerous mosaics which adorned several churches and chapels where he lived and worked.

