

# Fr. Phillip Robenalt, SCJ

## 1943-1978

He was easy to like. His personality was much like his smile: warm, open and sincere. He was someone you felt at ease with. As you came to know him, you came to admire him.

This is how many SCJs, friends and co-workers spoke of Fr. Phillip Robenalt, SCJ. Fr. Phil died of Leukemia at 35. From the onset of his sickness he spoke openly about the disease and his future. "I don't want to ever be afraid to talk about it and its reality in my life," he said.

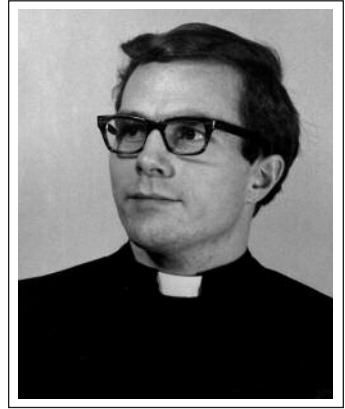
Fr. Phil came from a large, close-knit, Midwestern Catholic family. He was born August 4, 1943 and grew up in Lima, Ohio. A natural athlete, he excelled in sports. He first became interested in the priesthood while he was in grade school.

After two years at Great Barrington and another in Ste. Marie, he professed his first vows on September 8, 1964. His college years were spent at Kilroe and after graduation, he taught for two years at Divine Heart Seminary in Donaldson, Ind.

After his first year of theology, he needed more time to discern his vocation, so he took a little over a year off and worked as a roofer in Washington, D.C. After his return to Sacred Heart Monastery, he completed his theological studies and was ordained on November 28, 1974. He spent his four years as a priest at Our Lady of Guadalupe, East Chicago.

Before his death, Fr. Phil was asked to share his thoughts about his life as an SCJ:

"Being an SCJ means getting involved in the needs and lives of people... but my ministry is also about taking the initiative and going out to others before they come to me or other priests with their problems. I think the main advantage and privilege for a priest is the chance to see how God works in people's lives, especially in the sacrament of reconciliation. I feel so blessed in being with Christ as He draws people to Him in order to share with them His forgiveness and peace."



Fr. Phillip Robenalt, SCJ

March 7, 1978