Fr. Jerome Schaad, SCJ 1938-2001

Fr. Jerome Schaad, SCJ, was treasurer of the U.S. Province of the Priests of the Sacred Heart for almost 30 years.

Originally from Columbus, Ohio, Fr. Schaad professed his first vows with the SCJs in 1957. He received his bachelor’s degree from Kilroe Seminary in Honesdale, Penn., did his theological studies at Sacred Heart Monastery in Hales Corners, Wis., and earned a master’s in physics from Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. He was ordained to the priesthood in 1966 at St. Mary’s parish in Hales Corners, Wis.

From his many years in finance, Fr. Schaad’s name became synonymous with the Province Treasurer’s office. However, before entering that role, he taught math and science, first at Divine Heart Seminary in Donaldson, Ind., and later at Kilroe.

Fr. Schaad served for many years on the General Finance Commission for the congregation. His work on the commission took him around the world, including the General Conference in Brazil, where he delivered a presentation.

However, his travels weren’t always work related. In 1982, Fr. Schaad celebrated his 25th anniversary of religious life by riding his bicycle from Hales Corners to Hyder, Alaska. It was the longest of several bicycle journeys that he had taken. “It was a good time to get a lot of prayer in,” he said in a local newspaper interview done soon after the ride. “The contact with nature brings to mind your creator.”

Approximately two years before his death, Fr. Schaad was diagnosed with Waldenstrom’s Macroglobulinemia, a rare form of blood cancer. Due to increasing health problems, Fr. Schaad left his duties as province treasurer just a month before his death at 62.

He was a member of the Sacred Heart Monastery Community.