

Fr. Francis Schneider, SCJ

1885-1947

In 1925, Fr. Francis Schneider, SCJ, came to the United States after having spent several years teaching in Sittard, Holland and serving as an army chaplain. He arrived just two years after the SCJs had opened their first mission among the Lakota Sioux of South Dakota.

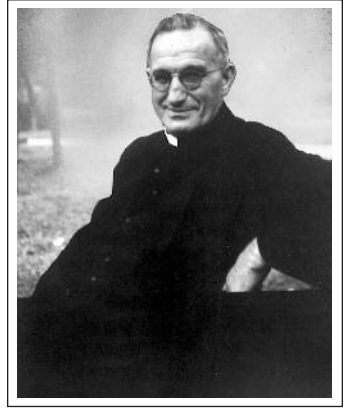
His first assignment was among the Native Americans of the Cheyenne Reservation, where he stayed for ten years. Upon visiting the mission in 1931, Fr. Joseph Philippe, SCJ superior general, remarked, "I feel at home in this missionary's poor, yet clean little home."

Fr. Schneider loved the "wild west" as he called it, and hoped that more young SCJs would be motivated minister in South Dakota.

"I am glad that your community is growing; I wish that it would grow in the wild west," wrote Fr. Schneider to the scholastics in Hales Corners.

In 1935, Fr. Schneider was appointed superior of the novitiate in Ste. Marie and retained that position until 1938. While there, he also took on extra parish work on the weekends. He served as a provincial councilor from 1938 until 1941.

After serving as superior for three years, he moved to Hales Corners to begin teaching at the monastery. However, after three years he was back in Ste. Marie, where he assumed the role of assistant novice master. While back, he also taught Latin and general science. For relaxation, he tended to the community's garden.



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