

Fr. Leo Friederichs, SCJ

1911-1980

Born in 1911, Fr. Leo Friederichs, SCJ, was a priest who loved tradition. One of his favorite pastimes was the study of Church history, which he enjoyed incorporating into his homilies.

He made his first profession in 1940, his final vows three years later and was ordained to the priesthood in 1943. Having come to the community as an older vocation, he had most of his schooling out of the way and was able to finish his theological studies quickly.

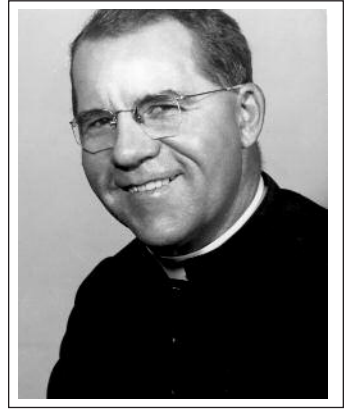
One of his greatest joys was celebrating high Mass.

He was a very serious man, “yet still very friendly,” said Fr. Justin Gross, SCJ. He generally preferred smaller crowds to big parties, “but again, he was always cordial wherever he went,” said Fr. Gross.

He was a bit of a character sometimes too,” said Fr. Czyzynski. “I remember when he’d celebrate Mass and would hold up the large host it front of his face — you know, the really big hosts. He’d hold it right in front of his eyes and then would slowly peer around the corner, as if to make sure we were all still there.”

To relax, Fr. Leo enjoyed taking care of trees, especially in the apple orchards near Kilroe Seminary in Honesdale. Father literally shared the fruits of his labor with SCJs, neighbors and local children. During apple season, he’d often stroll into the nearby school in Honesdale with a bushel full of fruit for the students.

He ministered in many areas of the country, including Our Lady of Fatima Chapel in Pittsburgh, one of his last assignments. Fr. Friederichs died April 16, 1980.



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