

## Father Edward De Bruin SDS Provincial



Father Edward De Bruin was born in Two Rivers, Wisconsin, in 1927. He attended Salvatorian Seminary in St. Nazianz, and then entered the Society's Novitiate there in 1946. During the year, the Novitiate moved to Menominee, Michigan, where he made his profession of vows on September 8, 1947. He completed his studies for the priesthood at Catholic University in Washington, DC, and was ordained in the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception on June 6, 1953. He served as teacher, dean of students, and then principal of Mother of the Savior Seminary in Blackwood, New Jersey; and as Director of Education for the province, while working at Divine Savior Seminary in Lanham, Maryland.

In September 1967, he was elected Provincial. During his six years in office, the province went through its most difficult period of the 20th century. Tough decisions needed to be made because of the province's financial reorganization, and the Church was experiencing a great exodus from the priesthood and religious life. Fr. Edward led the province with a strong but gentle hand through the difficulties.

At the completion of his terms, he entered into hospital ministry in Arizona, where he remained until 1994, the last four years of which were in retirement. While there, he also served as the province's Novice Master, and on the Formation Commission. He moved to Jordan Hall in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, in 1994, and then to St. Mary's Home in Manitowoc in 1998. He died there peacefully on March 26, 2001, and he was buried in the community cemetery in St. Nazianz.

In "The Moment of Grace," the two-volume study of the history of the USA Province, it states, "As Provincial, Fr. Edward galvanized the community to face the twin challenges of financial collapse and internal renewal ... The universal love and gratitude his confreres felt for him was movingly expressed at the 1992 Centennial Convocation when the mention of his name provoked a long standing ovation, and tears on the part of more than a few - this more than twenty years after he had laid down the burdens of office." He will always be remembered fondly for his courage and his dedication to the Society and its members.

