

Father Leonard Knoff

September 12th is the anniversary of the death of Father Leonard Knoff. Aloysius Knoff was born in Muenster, Texas, on October 30, 1910. The family moved to Ardmore, Oklahoma, where Aloysius received most of his elementary education. Around 1924 the family moved to North Little Rock, Arkansas. For his secondary education, Aloysius attended our academy, graduating with the class of 1929.

He then joined his brother, Father Eugene Knoff, as a member of our community. Aloysius Knoff professed his vows as a monk of our monastery on September 16, 1930, receiving the name Leonard. He was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop John B. Morris at St. Andrew's Cathedral in Little Rock on June 6, 1936.

From 1936 until 1941, Father Leonard was on the faculty of our academy. For the next 20 years, from 1941 to 1961, he was on the faculty of Laneri High School in Fort Worth, Texas.

Father Leonard was appointed the superior of the Fathers and principal of Laneri High School in 1958, building up the school's already high academic standards to the extent that Laneri ranked in the top 10 percent in the nation on the basis of comparative tests given to the students.

In addition to his work at Laneri, Father Leonard was a week-end assistant at St. Patrick's Co-cathedral in Fort Worth for 14 years.

In the spring of 1961, Father Leonard was diagnosed with terminal cancer. He spent almost a month at St. Joseph's Hospital in Fort Worth, Texas. Later he was taken to St. Mary's Hospital in Kansas City, Missouri. Following a three-month stay in the hospital there, Father Leonard succumbed to the disease on Tuesday, September 12, 1961.

A Mass was held at St. Mary's Church in Fort Worth, Texas, on Friday, September 15.

At the time of his death, Father Leonard was 50 years old and in the 30th year of his monastic profession. He observed his 25th anniversary of priesthood from his bed of suffering three months before his death. He is buried in our cemetery.

