

May 25, 1966

Father John Mootz, SJ



Father Mootz was born in Dodge City Sept. 3, 1884, and baptized at Sacred Heart Church. The family moved to Seattle in 1889. He entered the Society of Jesus at Los Gatos, Calif., on March 8, 1903.

Following his novitiate, he taught English at Gonzaga College, Spokane, Wash. He later studied philosophy there and taught chemistry to his fellow Jesuits (1909-12). After completing his philosophical studies, he taught physics and mathematics at St. Ignatius College in San Francisco (1912-16). He made his theological studies at St. Louis University in St. Louis (1916-20).

He was ordained to the priesthood June 26, 1919, by Most Rev. Thomas Shahan, auxiliary bishop of Baltimore, at Catholic University. He made his solemn profession in the Society on Feb. 2, 1922, at St. Aloysius, Spokane.

Father Mootz was engaged in university teaching for the remainder of his life. He returned to Gonzaga where he taught physics (1921-22). He then went to San Francisco, where he was associated with St. Ignatius College (later renamed the University of San Francisco), for most of his career (1922-24; 1930-59). In 1924, he was assigned to Santa Clara University, Santa Clara, Calif.

He retired from the classroom in 1959 and resided at the Infirmary at Sacred Heart Novitiate, Los Gatos. He died May 25, 1966. Burial was in the Jesuit plot at Santa Clara Mission Cemetery.

He had four sisters who entered the religious life: Mother Ignatius of Jesus, a Carmelite (OCD), and Sisters Mary Ethel, Mary Clarilda, and Mary Walburga, all Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary, (SNJM).