

VILLA SAINT-JEAN

Fribourg, Suisse

Reverend Charles Neumann, S.M. 1923 - 1997

Duties: Father Neumann was the Villa Chaplain. He also taught French, History, Religion, Latin and Music Appreciation

BIOGRAPHY

- Son of Charles William Neumann and Margaret Schulze
- Born on March 21, 1923, in San Antonio, Texas
- Grandson of Carl Schulze and Agathe Sobeczek, who was born in Silesia
- Ordained on July 20, 1952; Society of Mary
- Author of The Casper Sobeczek Family in Texas, privately published in 1991
- Died on May 9, 1997; buried in the Marianist Cemetery, St. Mary's University, in San Antonio, Texas



Reverend Charles William Neumann, Jr., S.M. 1923 - 1997

FR. CHARLES NEUMANN, of the St. Louis Province, died in the service of the Blessed Virgin Mary on May 9, 1997, in San Antonio, Texas in the 75th year of his age and the 57th of his religious profession.

Charles William Neumann, son of CHARLES NEUMANN and MARGARET SCHULZE NEUMANN, was born in San Antonio, Texas, on March 21, 1923. He had one sister and two brothers; one brother, PAUL also entered the Society of Mary.

Charles was taught by the Sisters of Divine Providence at St. Joseph Academy and by the Marianists at Central Catholic High School. At Central Catholic, he achieved academically (no grade below 95 in English, Social Studies, Math, Science or Language) and also participated in Sodality, drama, school paper, and ROTC.

Influenced by his teachers, he entered the novitiate at Maryhurst in Kirkwood, Missouri, and was in the last group to be professed there on August 25, 1940. After graduation from the University of Dayton, he began his teaching career at Coyle High School in Kirkwood. He then returned to his alma mater, Central Catholic, as teacher and registrar. Two years in Canada, at Levis, preceded his seminary studies at Fribourg, Switzerland. While in Canada, his teaching fields were in Religion, Social Studies, and Language; he also moderated Sodalities and glee clubs.

He was perpetually professed on July 30, 1944, at Marynook, Galesville, Wisconsin. His ordination at Fribourg was on July 20, 1952. He stayed on to complete a doctorate in theology; his thesis was on the Virgin Mary in the works of St. Ambrose. Fr. Neumann published numerous articles on Mary. He was a member of the Mariological Society of America, serving as its President (1971-73). Earlier he had been honored by receiving the Society's Mariological Award.

Fr. Neumann's first assignment after the seminary was to the Maryhurst motherhouse, Kirkwood, Missouri, where he served as teacher and chaplain for the candidates. In 1956 he was named Master of Novices in Galesville. Three years later, he was assigned to St. Mary's University in his home town as Community Director and, after two years, as President. In 1963 he returned to Fribourg to be chaplain and teacher at Villa St. Jean International School. Two years later, he took charge of the American second Novitiate during the interim stage when the program moved from Glencoe to New Haven, Missouri.

In January 1967 he returned to St. Mary's University to teach in the theology department. He was a member of several academic societies and received civic honors in San Antonio and a listing in Who's Who in America. In 1989 Pope John Paul II named Fr. Neumann Knight of the Holy Sepulcher; in 1994 he was raised to the level of Knight Commander. He had been a translator at the 1951 General Chapter while still a seminarian. Ten years later he returned as a delegate. From 1956 on, with a few gaps, he was elected to successive Provincial Chapters, even in the mid-1990's.

Fr. Neumann directed retreats and helped in parish Masses. Noted for intense interest in and knowledge of Marianist history, he was often called

upon to preach at jubilees and at funerals of fellow-Marianists. His musical ability was expressed in service as community organist. At the request of ARCHBISHOP PATRICK FLORES, he served as liaison for reception into full communion with the Roman Catholic Church of an entire Episcopalian parish in San Antonio, now known as Our Lady of Atonement Parish (Anglican Use). He continued teaching until a breakdown of health in 1995. However, he remained active in sacramental ministry in San Antonio parishes until recently.



A LOOK BACK

Americans at Villa St. Jean, Fribourg, Switzerland, 1949, where many Marianists attended seminary.

FRONT: Bro. Justin Burghoff, SM, Bro. Warner Rohrbach, SM, (not known), Bishop Charles Helmsing, Archbishop Joseph E. Ritter, Fr. Emil Neubert, SM (rector of the seminary) and Fr. Carl Dreisoerner, SM (vice rector).

BACK: **Bro. Charles Neumann, SM**, (not known), Bro. Bernard Meyer, SM, (not known).

Joseph Ritter was archbishop of St. Louis 1946 – 1967; he integrated all Catholic schools and hospitals in the archdiocese.