

## Father John G. Rechtien

### Obituary



BROTHER JOHN  
RECHTIEN, S.M., B.A.,  
M.A.  
English 4; Assistant Dean-  
Ormes; Organist.

Father John G. Rechtien, S.M. died on September 17, 2001 in San Antonio, TX at the age of 64. John Gerhardt Rechtien was born in New London, WI on January 17, 1937, one of two boys and a girl in the family of John and Athelia Hocking Rechtien. After grade school education at Holy Angels and St. Elizabeth's in Milwaukee by the Dominican and Notre Dame Sisters, he enrolled at Don Bosco High School. 'It was while attending Don Bosco that I first seriously considered taking this step. The example of the Brother's consecration to Mary attracted me.' He left home for the Galesville novitiate in 1955 and professed his first vows on September 8, 1956 at Marynook. John professed his final vows at Our Lady of the Pillar Parish in St. Louis on August 22, 1961. **He attended the seminary in Fribourg, Switzerland and was ordained on March 21, 1970.** After college studies at Maryhurst in St. Louis and St. Mary's University in San Antonio, he embarked on his teaching career. Academically gifted, he achieved a B.A. in English from St.

Mary's University and his M.A., and Ph.D. in English from St. Louis University. His thesis was entitled, 'Commonplace Book as Genre'. He also received a STL degree from the **University of Fribourg**. The Dean of the Graduate School in St. Louis wrote: 'You received the highest possible rating from your committee on your final examination for the degree of Master of ArtsÉ' He also pursued studies at Laval in Quebec and Cambridge in England. He began his teaching career at McBride High School in St. Louis (1956-1964) followed by a year at Vlanney and **another at Villa St. Jean in Fribourg (1966)**. Extracurricular activities included moderating the literary magazine, sodality, yearbook and photography club. He published a number of articles for journals. After his ordination, he returned to McBride for a year, then for two years at the Bordeaux House before assignment in 1973 to the St. Mary's University faculty in the English department. Father John was assigned to the Scholasticate, Marianist Formation, and Faculty House communities. After an assignment to Casa Maria Community (1982-88), he returned to the Faculty House. In December of 1998, Father was diagnosed with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. He endured two years of intensive chemotherapy in the hopes of arresting the disease. As he approached the end of his life, Father chose to forego any medications for pain management that would cause him to lose his awareness. The Friday before he died, he agreed to be transferred to the skilled nursing unit in St. Joseph's. Even in the midst of his pain, he was able to communicate with those who visited him. Father is survived by a sister and brother, Athelia Marie and Frank Rechtien, of the greater Milwaukee area. Funeral Services are scheduled to be held in Guadalupe Chapel on the campus of St. Mary's University as follows: Rosary was held at 7:00 P.M. on Wednesday, September 19, 2001. Mass will be at 4:00 P.M. on Thursday, September 20, 2001, followed by Interment in the Marianist Cemetery. Arrangements by: The Angelus Funeral Home.