



Fr. Placid L. Csizmazia was born on October 26, 1915 in Fiume (Rijeka) Hungary, (now in Croatia). He graduated from the Cistercian School of Budapest and on August 29, 1933 entered the novitiate of the Cistercian Abbey of Zirc. He studied philosophy and theology first in Zirc and then in Budapest, and obtained a master's degree in three languages (Latin, Greek and German). He was ordained to the priesthood in 1940. With the highest distinction ("Royal Ring"), he obtained his Ph.D. in Latin in 1943. For the next seven years he taught in the Cistercian School of Budapest. After the suppression of the Cistercian Order in Hungary (1950), he began teaching Russian, a language he learned during the war and subsequent Russian occupation. Until 1962 he actively participated in the clandestine formation program by which the Cistercians continued their existence. Harassed and intimidated for such activities, he left the country in 1965 and came to the U.S. where he joined his exiled brothers in the Cistercian Abbey Our Lady of Dallas.

He first taught Latin and German at Cist. Prep. School, where he also served as Assistant Headmaster for three years (1968-71). For the rest of his active life he taught Latin, Greek and Russian at the Univ. of Dallas. He retired from teaching in 1992, but continued to tutor students in Latin, Greek, Russian and Hungarian until his death.

In 1969 he deeply impressed all of the participants of the post-conciliar General Chapter by the clarity of his ideas and his eloquent Latin speech, greatly contributing to the deliberations and the legislation which followed.

A man of exceptional intellectual talents, Fr. Placid dedicated his life to the ideal of living as a monk, priest and teacher. Precision, organization, peaceful friendliness and enthusiasm marked a tireless and diligent man, his life and work. His battle with cancer ended in a peaceful death on Oct. 30.

## FR. PLACID

- 1915-1999
- Born: Oct. 26, 1915
- Entered Zirc on Aug. 29, 1933
- Ordained: 1940
- Moved to Our Lady of Dallas: 1965
- Died: Oct. 30, 1999

