

A SHORT ACCOUNT

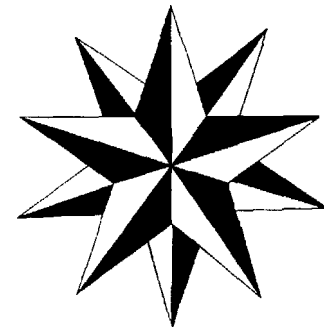
OF THE LIFE

OF

Brother Adrian Roy, F.S.C.

(Robert Sebastian Roy)

1920 - 2001



SIGNUM FIDEI



TOUR OF DUTY

- 1942 - St. Paul's School (Covington, Louisiana)
- 1949 - St. Nicholas (Bernalillo, New Mexico)
- 1950 - Cathedral High School (El Paso, TX)
- 1953 - Cathedral High School (Lafayette, Louisiana)
- 1954 - St. Peter's (New Iberia, Louisiana)
- 1956 - Hanson High School (Franklin, Louisiana)
- 1958 - St. Paul's School (Covington, Louisiana)
- 1966 - Rummel High School (Metairie, Louisiana)
- 1993 - St. Paul's School (Covington, Louisiana)
- 2001 - Died on July 21 (Covington, Louisiana)

**Brother Adrian Roy, FSC
1920-2001**

A large part of the liturgical year of the Catholic Church is referred to as Ordinary Time. During Ordinary Time, which numbers either 33 or 34 weeks, the focus of the Church is on Jesus as teacher. Week after week with relatively few celebrations, except for feasts of devotion or of the Saints, Ordinary Time unfolds. It is characterized by three themes that are presented by Jesus to those who would be his disciples: diligence, persistence, and, above all, patience in prayer on the road to the Kingdom. By using the parables of Jesus, the ideals of Christian discipleship are presented and believers are asked to be honest with themselves. On Saturday, July 21, in the Fifteenth Week in Ordinary Time, **Brother Adrian Roy** completed his journey to the Kingdom. The 81 years of his earthly journey were marked with diligence, persistence and patience in prayer. As a De La Salle Christian Brother for 63 years, **Brother Adrian** was a teacher as was Our Lord Jesus. **Brother Adrian's** life as a teaching Brother was not only successful, it was more than ordinary.

Robert Roy was born in New Orleans, LA on May 13, 1920, the son of **Louis Roy** and the former **Mercedes Segasti**, both deceased. He was preceded in death by his brothers: **Louis Roy, Jr.**, **Evariste Roy**, **Monark Roy**, his sisters: **Zenobia Schmidt** and **Mercedes Owens Wild**. He is survived by his brother, **Louis Edgar Roy** and many nieces and nephews.

Robert Roy entered the Junior Novitiate of the De La Salle Christian Brothers on January 2, 1934 in Lafayette, LA. In his memoirs **Brother Adrian** states:

“I entered the Junior Novitiate from Our Lady Star of the Sea Parish in New Orleans, I was 12 years of age. The Junior Novitiate was a place for serious studies. In fact, it was the first time that I studied in my life. It was a serious place with time devoted to prayer, studies and community life. There was also “goof-off” time. The young men in my class were good athletes.

We had an unbeatable baseball team; the Brothers were afraid to play us.”

It should be noted that, modestly, **Brother Adrian** does not mention that he was a very good pitcher.

Upon completion of high school, **Robert Roy** entered the Novitiate of the Brothers. On August 14, 1938, he received the religious habit and was given the name **Brother Adrian Abel**. Again, from his memoirs, **Brother Adrian** gives the following remembrance of his year in the Novitiate:

“It was an intense time devoted to the study of the Rule, the Meditations of the Founder, Religion, French, Mental Prayer, and manual labor. The Director of the Novitiate was Brother Louis Amable. He was one of the Brothers, and like all of the French Brothers he was most humble, who was demanding with regard to the following of the Rule. It was a hard year, but at the same time a good year.”

Brother Adrian pronounced his first vows on August 15, 1939. He was assigned to begin his teacher training at Sacred Heart College in Las Vegas, NM. He remained at Sacred Heart College until 1942. **Brother's** first teaching assignment was at St. Paul's School in Covington, LA., where he taught mathematics, accounting, and religion, and coached the baseball team. Again, from his memoirs, **Brother Adrian** gives an account of his first assignment:

“It was the war years. We had many boarders at St. Paul's. In fact, there were times when the Brothers had to give up their personal beds for use by the boarders. I was an assistant prefect and was in contact with the boys just about twenty-four hours a day. Times were hard for everyone, but the Brothers took everything in stride. We were doing what we could to help boys' parents who were involved in the war and war efforts at home. By the way, the Brothers who gave up their beds to boarders didn't get new ones for a long time.”

a list?’ So he took the assignment list, scratched my name off the list for St. Peter’s and added it to the list for Hanson High. He then said: ‘Done!’ The two years I spent at Hanson High were very happy ones.”

In 1958, **Brother Adrian** was again assigned to St. Paul’s School in Covington, LA. Again he taught his regular round of courses of mathematics, accounting, and religion. In addition he coached the Junior High basketball team. **Michael McMurray**, an alumnus of St. Paul’s School, gives the following remembrance:

“I am fortunate to have known this man for nearly 40 years, as a student at St. Paul’s School from 1956-1963, and years later when I became involved with the school as an employee. Brother Adrian was a teacher and Junior High basketball coach when I was at St. Paul’s and I respected him for molding me into the man I am today. A very determined and disciplined man, he was also the most gentle and loving man I have ever met. I shared these moments with him when he retired to St. Paul’s in 1993. Again, he was a pleasure to know and I will miss him greatly.”



Brother Adrian with his basketball team at St. Paul's in 1958.



Brother Adrian with his Confraternity of the Infant Jesus at St. Paul's School in 1958.

Brother Adrian spent six (6) years at St. Paul’s but in 1948 was transferred to Bernalillo, NM. During his educational career, he taught in seven (7) Christian Brothers’ schools of the New Orleans-Santa Fe Province. **Brother Adrian** gives a humorous remembrance of his assignment to Hanson High in Franklin, LA. in 1956:

“I was assigned to St. Peter’s in New Iberia for the new school term. While I was on retreat at Magnolia, I was told by one of the Brothers that Brother Visitor was planning on changing me to Franklin, LA. Every time I saw Brother Visitor (August Conrad) coming around a corner, I would go in the opposite direction. One night he caught up with me in the community room. He said: ‘Brother Adrian how would you like being assigned to Hanson High?’ I said: ‘I’m very happy at St. Peter’s. Besides, I’m already on the list for St. Peter’s for next year.’ He said: ‘Is that all it takes, placing your name on

Beginning in 1966, **Brother Adrian** would spend the next 26 years of his life at Archbishop Rummel High School in Metairie, LA., as head of the Business Office. **Brother Alphonse LeBlanc**, who lived with Brother Adrian for twenty-five years gives the following remembrance:

“I lived with Brother Adrian for most of my religious life. He was bursar for both the school and community. Among the things we shared was years of coaching. I remember when Brother Adrian coached JV basketball at St. Paul’s. His team went on to win District when they were on the varsity as seniors. His coaching philosophy was teaching the fundamentals. I remembered that and tried to make it part of my philosophy when I coached soccer. I think that is the keynote of Brother Adrian’s virtue. He was a man of simplicity, a man of basics.

Brother Adrian was most thoughtful and generous. We both liked to cook. I would do a lot of Italian and basic recipes, and Brother Adrian was a dessert chef. The irony was that he could not indulge in his creations because he was diabetic. That didn’t stop him from making the most delicious desserts and pastries. His only satisfaction was that the Brothers enjoy a good dessert. At Christmas time he would spend weeks of preparation, making his famous fruitcakes for the Brothers and friends of the community. It was at once a tour-de-force and a labor of love. It always brought a special aroma and taste to the Christmas celebration.

In later years, Brother Adrian was a special companion to Brother Francis Beck. He sometimes accompanied Brother Francis on vacations. After Brother Francis could no longer drive, Brother Adrian was most helpful. He often had to drive Brother Francis. That was not easy given Brother Adrian’s age and health.

Brother Adrian was a good community man, bring-

ing a basic sense of spirituality, much generosity, a warm and gentle sense of humor, and a readiness for service.”



Brother Adrian on the occasion of his Golden Jubilee of habit taking in 1988.

Brother Brendan Hayden also lived with **Brother Adrian** when he, **Brother Brendan**, served as either Academic Assistant Principal or Principal of Archbishop Rummel High School. **Brother Brendan** remarks:

“Brother Adrian and I came from the same parish in New Orleans, Our Lady Star of the Sea. When I became Principal of Archbishop Rummel High School, Brother Adrian was in charge of the finance office. Very faithfully, every month, he would present me with the financial report for the month. He always pointed out to me where departments were close to spending their budget for the year. This enabled me to put the department chairs on notice to watch their spending.

During those years, the Brothers did not receive a regular salary, although, on the financial books it was noted that part of what would have been their salary, if they were not Brothers, was considered a ‘contributed service’, to the school. During the 1960’s, a previous Brother Principal had asked

Brother Adrian, a teacher with many years of experience, to move into the finance office. No longer being a teacher, it appeared that Brother Adrian's 'contributed service', to the school was less than before, as office personnel were not paid at the same rate as faculty. It thus appeared that Brother Adrian's 'contributed service', was less than that of the beginning Brother-teacher on the faculty. This hurt Brother Adrian very much. I understood his hurt and so remedied this situation by raising his 'contributed service', to the level of what it would have been had he remained a teacher. No dollars were exchanged, but Brother Adrian was grateful and expressed that gratitude to me many times.

I recently had occasion to attend a St. Paul's School Board meeting, the first since Brother Adrian's death. In visiting the community, I felt something missing - Brother Adrian. We used to reminisce about our days together at Rummel. We always enjoyed a good laugh over many incidences. God bless him! May he rest in peace!"

In 1993, **Brother Adrian** was transferred to the Brothers' retirement home at St. Paul's School in Covington, LA. The place of his first assignment as a young Brother would be his last earthly home as a Senior Brother. As a member of the St. Paul's Community, he attempted to contribute as best he could. Several Brothers from the St. Paul's community have attested to the fact that up to the end **Brother Adrian** attempted to live life to the fullest in spite of his growing infirmities. **Brother Abel Clement** gives the following remembrance:

"His cheerfulness and companionship are missed by all. I, in particular will miss his words of encouragement. He delighted us often with his laughter and funny happenings. He amused us with the many times he had to relight his pipe in order to enjoy it."

Brother Raphael Bonin, remembers **Brother Adrian** in the fol-

lowing manner:

"Upon retirement, I came to St. Paul's where Adrian and I were fellow religious for his final years. He underwent painful physical problems. Keeping in mind that Adrian was a fine athlete and an excellent coach, I was impressed with the manner he accepted sufferings; he complained little and was quite cheerful, despite setbacks. Finally, and not least, was his obedience and faithfulness to his duties."

Brother Alfred Baltz gives the following account of the years he lived in community with **Brother Adrian**:

"In the last years of his life, Brother Adrian all but lost feeling in his fingers, often dropping items which would embarrass most of us. But he merely apologized and got on with the meal. Daily insulin shots, serious back problems, Brother Adrian had many reasons to complain. This was not the case."

Brother Clarence Rheim adds:

"The last years were very painful for Brother Adrian. He suffered from arthritis, slipped and hurt his back, yet each morning he was present for daily Mass and prayers."

In concluding the remembrances of **Brother Adrian** by members of his community, we have the following remarks from **Brother Ralph Baltz** who was his Director for many years:

"Brother Adrian was careful to be present for times of prayer with his Brothers. He had a special devotion to his Brothers and a very special devotion to Our Lady. In his younger days, he bought beads, wire, and tools and spent much of his free time making Rosary beads for Brothers and friends."



On tour in Mexico City in 1985.

About a week before his death, **Brother Adrian** was admitted to St. Tammany Medical Center in Covington, LA. with severe back problems. Unexpectedly, on the night of July 18, 2001, he went into cardiac arrest. He was placed on a life support system, but there was no improvement in his condition. He passed away in the early evening of July 21, 2001.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held at 11:00 A.M. on Tuesday, July 24, 2001, in the chapel at De La Salle-Christian Brothers in Lafayette, LA. Burial took place in the De La Salle cemetery in Lafayette, LA.

In the movie “The Family Man,” the main character laments the ordinariness of his life. He says: “I gave up a high paying job on Wall Street in order to run my father-in-law’s tire company after he suffered a heart attack. I want the life I could have had if I had made a different choice. Our children go to mediocre schools. I want the kind of life that people will make people jealous.” His wife replied: “Jack, they are already jealous!” In America, we live in a society that is infatuated with watching “real life” unfold on television, e.g., “Big Brothers,” “Survivors,” etc. Some would question as to whether or not that is real life. What gives? As a society have we lost sight of the real lives and real people of everyday life? It doesn’t take great deeds to become a hero and many have become saints by performing the ordinary deeds of life in

an extraordinary manner. **Brother Adrian** lived a life that was in many ways ordinary, but a life of which others could be jealous. His life unfolded day after day, bereft of fanfare or show. He was a religious Brother, teacher, coach, athletic director, baker and rosary maker. In the eulogy at the Mass of Christian Burial, the Provincial of the New Orleans-Santa Fe Province, **Brother Clarence Fioke**, said:

“Our founder, St. John Baptist de la Salle, wrote that the Brothers should consider themselves ‘ambassadors and ministers’ of Jesus Christ. I believe that Brother Adrian took his advice seriously. How did he become an ambassador and minister of Jesus Christ? Certainly not in an overly pietistic way. But he was always there! He could be counted on! Whether it was by preparing lessons, teaching school, balancing the books, on the playing field, in the chapel at prayers, he was always there!”

Now that’s real life! Brother Adrian could be counted on! He was always there! Brother Adrian’s life as a religious educator was more than ordinary!

May he rest in peace. Amen. Alleluia!

By: Brother Louis Welker, FSC
Director of De La Salle Christian Brothers
Lafayette, LA



On a Caribbean cruise with Brother Francis Beck and niece in 1989.