



FR. RUDOLPH

- 1923-1994
- Born: May 13, 1923
- Entered Zirc in 1942
- Ordained: 1947
- Moved to Our Lady of Dallas: 1960
- Died: Nov. 22, 1994

Born in Hungary on May 13, 1923, Francis Zimányi attended the Cistercian school in Eger, Hungary. In 1942 he entered the novitiate in Zirc, where he took the name Rudolph. Five years later, in 1947, he was ordained to the priesthood. Fr. Rudolph, an avid student of the French language and literature, was sent to Paris to study in 1948.

Two years into his studies in France the order was suppressed, making his return to Zirc impossible. Like many of the other exiled Hungarian monks, Fr. Rudolph joined the monastery in Spring Bank, Wisconsin. He continued his studies at Marquette University (MA in French) and at Canisius in Buffalo (MA in Education) then finished his study at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois where he received his Ph.D. in French literature. His dissertation, titled Pascal in the Works of François Mauriac, made him an expert in two outstanding figures in French literature, Blaise Pascal of the 17th century, and the 20th century novelist, François Mauriac.

He moved to Our Lady of Dallas in 1960 and immediately began teaching at the University of Dallas.

Until his retirement in May 1993, he taught French at the University of Dallas. As a priest, he served at various parishes of the Metroplex, including a long running role as a confessor at St. Maria Goretti parish in Arlington.

After a six-month battle with cancer, he died on November 22, 1994.

Fr. Rudolph earned recognition as a Hungarian poet, publishing three volumes of poetry. His poem *Curriculum Vitae* summarized his own life story. The original poem, written in Hungarian, is translated here into English:

Curriculum Vitae

*my eyes fell into the sea
and disappeared among the waves*

*the four winds threw apart
in four directions my limbs*

*but my heart, this heart, this orphan
was left behind in a little farmhouse
remaining there for ever to stay*