



**Dr. Francisco Alvarez
Inducted 2002**

“Doc” Alvarez emigrated from Cuba in the early 60’s. Being a humble man, he never spoke much about his personal tragedy. He had been a high-ranking dignitary in the Cuban educational system. In 1955, he received a Doctorate of Education from the University of Havana. He served as director of a school center and then continued his career as a Professor of Spanish Language Grammar and Literature. Doc was also a Supervisor of Public Schools in his Province and afterward a Professor of Educational Psychology at the National School of Higher Education until 1961. As an author he published a book Gramatica de la Lengua Espanola geared toward Secondary School students. He also published Lecciones Basicas de Civica, a book for constitutional studies (Civics) classes.

Due to the political situation in Cuba in the 1960’s, he fled Cuba and came to the United States via Canada. Doc had lost everything, including his homeland and his livelihood. He literally arrived with nothing but the clothes on his back. However, Doc salvaged the most important, his family was with him. “Doc” Alvarez (as his students affectionately called him) his wife, Yolanda, and their son, Carlos, had to forge a new existence.

Doc worked at an entry-level position at a local restaurant and then arrived at Stepinac in 1966 and a bond was formed instantly. He taught Spanish at Stepinac for over 30 years. In 1978, he also joined the staff of St. Joseph’s Seminary in Yonkers, N.Y., where he taught Spanish. He remained there for 21 years until June of 1999.

Unbeknownst to most is the literary achievement of Dr. Alvarez. He has published numerous pieces of nostalgia in sundry publications and has written a beautiful booklet of poems in Spanish.

Doc is a former Berlitz language instructor and has even taught people Spanish via telephone.

Doc Alvarez gives new meaning to the word “quixotic”. He is truly a man of dreams, vision and accomplishment; a model of civility for the entire Stepinac community.