

December 27 *(continued...)*

In charity, let us remember our brothers and affiliates whose anniversary of death occurs tomorrow.

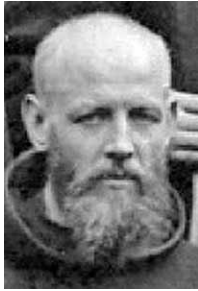
As a leader, he underscored the centrality of community life: common altar, common table, common recreation. Under his leadership, St. Francis Brothers' School was approved and plans for Queen of Angels Retreat Center and St. Anthony Parish in Saginaw were initiated. Cyprian was the first pastor of St. Anthony's, and the first local minister at Queen of Angels. He also supervised the building of the friary at Garrison.

At age 63, Cyprian was diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease and eventually was confined to a wheelchair. The need for assisted living brought him first to St. Benedict's and then to Crown Point where this giant of the Province passed to his eternal reward.

He is buried at Huntington.

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- ∇. Eternal rest grant to him/her (them), O Lord.
℟. And let perpetual light shine upon him/her (them).
∇. May his/her (their) soul(s), and all the souls of the faithful departed,
through the mercy of God rest in peace.
℟. Amen.
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CHRYSOSTOM STAPPERS [CHRIS-US-TUM SHTOP-ERS], who died in Milwaukee in 1919, at age 60, after 23 years of religious life and five years in the priesthood.

Chrysostom was born in Prussia. After emigrating to America, he attended St. Lawrence College. Although he diligently applied himself to his studies and his conduct was exemplary, his grades were less than stellar.

After novitiate, he struggled through the course of philosophy and theology and was ordained to the diaconate. He finished his course work, but ordination to the priesthood was put off because of his grades.

Chrysostom continued to serve at Holy Cross in Milwaukee, and then as sacristan at St. Francis. Thirteen years later, he was ordained to the priesthood, but he served the rest of his days as janitor at Wauwatosa.

Chrysostom was prayerful and edifying. After falling ill, he was taken to the hospital and tests revealed that an ulcer had perforated the stomach and gangrene had set in. There was no hope for his recovery. After receiving the Sacraments, he died peacefully on the feast of the Holy Innocents.

He is buried in Milwaukee.



JOEL TULLER, who died at Appleton in 1997, at age 72, after 53 years of religious life and 46 years in the priesthood.

The Tullers lived a few blocks from St. Francis Church in Milwaukee. Three of the sons attended St. Lawrence Seminary and became Capuchin priests. Joel was the second son.

Involved in a number of ministries stretching from North Dakota to Saudi Arabia, Joel's two most noteworthy assignments were his 17 years of teaching at Mt. Calvary, and the 14 years he was pastor at the nearby parish in St. Joe.

Joel enjoyed telling stories, dabbled in oil painting, and was a very gifted photographer. Like all the Tullers, he was somewhat reserved. When he did speak, however, his style tended to be up-front and frank, which was not always appreciated.

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December 28 *(continued...)*

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When St. Fidelis Friary in Appleton was opened as a retirement facility, Joel was asked to be on the staff. He responded with his characteristic availability. After five years, he was diagnosed with lung cancer and passed away at St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Appleton.

Joel is buried at Mt. Calvary.

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SERAPHIN RITZENHOFF [RITZ-EN-HOFF], who died at Mt. Calvary in 1890, at age 47, after 19 years of religious life.

Seraphin grew up in Germany and was a mason by trade. After joining the Order, he served at St. Fidelis in New York; St. Joseph's, Appleton; Fort Lee, New Jersey; and finally, as baker at Mt. Calvary.

Despite a foreboding exterior, Seraphin had a warm and sympathetic heart. He was hardworking, very diligent, and added a great deal of enjoyment to community gatherings.

He is buried at Mt. Calvary.



MATTHEW HOLZMILLER, who died at Fond du Lac in 1894, at age 43, after 22 years of religious life, and 18 years in the priesthood.

After emigrating from Germany, Matthew attended St. John's College, apparently intent on joining the Benedictines at Collegeville, Minnesota. Instead, he entered the novitiate at Mt. Calvary.

Since he was an excellent student, Matthew was called upon to teach in the clericate even before he was ordained. The year following his ordination, he was appointed novice master for a 3-year term. He later taught philosophy at Mt. Calvary and served several terms as local vicar.

As a professor, Matthew was a strict disciplinarian and a thorough teacher. He loved music and composed several pieces for the violin. While stationed at Mt. Calvary he also served the pastoral needs of St. Mary's Parish in Monroe. Later, he served as chaplain to the Notre Dame Sisters in Mt. Calvary and to the Agnesians in Fond du Lac.

Matthew died suddenly at Fond du Lac. When he failed to appear for Mass, the Sisters went to his room where he was found dead. On his desk was a book of chant opened to the paragraph on the Requiem. His death, though sudden, did not find him unprepared.

Matthew is buried at Mt. Calvary.

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CAMILLUS BECKER, who died at Milwaukee in 1936, at age 52, after 33 years of religious life and 26 years in the priesthood.

Camillus was born in New York City. His parents were pioneer members of our first New York parish, Our Lady of Sorrows.

Camillus attended St. Lawrence College in Mt. Calvary before entering the novitiate. Immediately after ordination, he was appointed assistant professor at St. Francis in Milwaukee where he also co-founded the St. Boniface Mission League, a major fund-raiser for the Mission at St. Benedict's.

Soon afterward, he launched out into what would become his life's work: giving retreats and parish missions.

When Camillus gave his first retreat to the Agnesians, several of the older Sisters remarked that they had not heard such a good retreat since the days of Francis Haas. Camillus put his entire self into every retreat, even those for children. Over his lifetime, Camillus gave some 400 retreats, excluding missions.

After being transferred temporarily to St. Lawrence College to substitute for a sick friar, he was appointed pastor of St. Cloud Parish. His preaching and affability made him very popular with the people. They were saddened to lose him two years later when he was appointed Rector of St. Lawrence College.

Although well-liked, his years as Rector were trying times. The flu epidemic of 1918 landed 126 students and 20 scholastics in bed. After the epidemic, a fire swept through the roof of the Laurentianum [**law-ren-see-AH-num**] which also sustained considerable interior water damage. Then Camillus himself became so ill that he had to resign and be hospitalized.

Once back on his feet, he served the parish at St. Peter, and then was assigned to the Mission Band with residence at St. Joseph's in Appleton. Later, he continued his retreat ministry from St. Francis in Milwaukee where he did a tremendous amount of good as Director of the Archdiocesan Holy Name Union.

Camillus was in the midst of a Sisters' retreat when he became seriously ill. Admitted to St. Joseph's Hospital, his condition worsened until he lost consciousness. Camillus, illustrious preacher of the Word, received the Sacraments, and died in the Lord. He is buried in Milwaukee.

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CRISPIN BLESCH, who died at Mt. Calvary in 1901, at age 66, after 40 years of religious life.

Crispin was born in Germany and came to America when he was 18. He worked as a tinsmith in Rochester, New York before joining the Order at age 26.

Over the course of the years, he served mainly as cook, mostly at Mt. Calvary and St. Francis in Milwaukee.

Crispin was especially conscientious when it came to poverty, probably to an extreme, which affected not only himself but the other friars, as well.

Despite his own shortcomings, there was none more ready than Crispin to excuse the faults and shortcomings of others, and no one ever saw him angry or heard him be judgmental. His spirit of prayer was as unflagging as it was devout.

In the early 1890s, at St. Bonaventure's in Detroit, one of the lay brother novices was in the tailorshop with Br. Sebastian Landmesser, the senior brother of the community. They had been talking about the saints of the Order when the novice asked: "Have we any saintly brothers in our Province?" Sebastian replied, "If we have any saints, then surely Br. Crispin is one."

Crispin is buried at Mt. Calvary.



SIMEON KEOGH [**SIM-EE-UN KEY-OH**], who died at Kaukauna in 2007, at age 86, after 63 years of religious life and 58 years in the priesthood.

Simeon was born in Toledo. At age 16, he suffered his first attack of acute Rheumatic Fever which affected his heart.

After graduating from St. Joseph College in Rensselaer, he joined the Order. Owing to his heart condition and the expectation that he probably would not live long, he was ordained and assigned to Huntington where he was confessor to the Sisters and secretary to Solanus Casey. Two years later, he was appointed local minister of our House of Studies in Marathon.

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December 31 *(continued...)*

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Simeon embodied a new style of leadership which influenced the entire Province. Although he served in various capacities — at a retreat center, in parishes, as hospital chaplain and in formation work — his greatest gift and legacy was his more casual, brotherly leadership style.

Although never elected to provincial leadership, Simeon served as local minister in many of our friaries at the request of the friars. He ushered in a new era and helped break down the traditional customs, roles and distinctions between clerics and lay brothers.

Simeon brought joy to the community and animated others. He never shied away from things he enjoyed: dressing as a clown, rug hooking and baking.

The greatest testament to Simeon's life was the number of friars who, upon hearing of his passing, remarked: "He was the best superior I ever had."

Simeon is buried at Mt. Calvary.

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