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

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**POLYCARP STAUDINGER**, who died at Mt. Calvary in 1905, at age 32, after 12 years of religious life and 5 years in the priesthood.

Polycarp was the only child of well-to-do millers. After emigrating from Bavaria to America, he finished school at Calvary. Entrance into the novitiate was delayed a few months due to a serious case of pneumonia.

After ordination, Polycarp received a one-year assignment to St. Francis Parish in Milwaukee after which he was appointed chaplain of St. Agnes Hospital and Convent in Fond du Lac.

Two years later he was transferred to Our Lady of Angels in New York where he was a very capable catechist and confessor. He preached with convincing sincerity.

When his health became an issue, Polycarp returned to Fond du Lac to serve as chaplain of the Agnesian Sisters. Fear of contagion, however, forced his retirement to the infirmary at Calvary.

Tuberculosis and cancer of the larynx caused him a great deal of suffering. Even a sip of water was painful.

Polycarp died and is buried at Mt. Calvary.



**BENVENUTE HERTLE [BEN-VEN-OOT HUR-DLE]**, who died in Wauwatosa in 1921, at age 75, after 41 years of religious life.

Born in Germany, Benvenute joined us at age 33.

Despite extremely poor eyesight, he served the Province well for over 40 years as janitor, baker and all-around community-helper.

His impaired vision sometimes caused him to make some mistakes. On that account, he sometimes received good-natured teasing from the friars, but he always bore it with patience.

Benvenute left an example of fidelity to our way of life.

He is buried in Milwaukee.

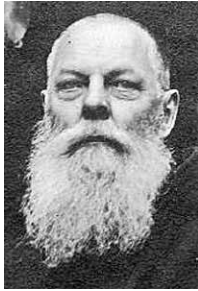
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- ∇. Eternal rest grant to him (them), O Lord.  
 ℣. And let perpetual light shine upon him (them).  
 ∇. May his (their) soul(s), and all the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God rest in peace.  
 ℣. Amen.

May 5

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Lucius Fuchs [LEW-shus FOOKS], who died in Detroit in 1916, at age 72, after 53 years of religious life.

Lucius emigrated with his family from Bavaria to Milwaukee when he was 11 years old. He was already a skilled cabinetmaker and carpenter when he entered the novitiate at age 18.

While St. Bonaventure Monastery was under construction, Lucius built a small wooden chapel on the grounds of Mt. Elliott Cemetery. The chapel was used for services until the Monastery chapel was completed.

When construction of the monastery was finished, Lucius built the large sacristy cabinet and designed and carved the altar in the friars' choir.

Lucius was always kind, sociable and interesting.

When the old cemetery chapel was moved to the backyard of the monastery yard, it became Lucius' carpentry shop. It was there that he died suddenly while sharpening his tools.

Lucius is buried in Detroit.

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THOMAS WEIER [WEAR], who died at Chassell, Michigan, in 1980, at age 65, after 42 years of religious life and 35 years in the priesthood.

The oldest of 12 children, Tom was born and raised on a farm in Dodgeville, Wisconsin. As a young man he worked in road construction. Even before entering the Order, he had a strong temperament and principles.

When he expressed an interest in becoming a priest, his pastor – a Calvary alumnus –, guided him to St. Lawrence. Although not scholarly by nature, Tom was always at the top of his class through his determination and hard work.

Following ordination, he served the Secular Franciscans first in Detroit, and then at St. John's in New York City.

Tom had a number of short-term assignments, including teaching at Calvary, and pastoral work at both St. Labre in Montana and St. Joseph in Appleton. His longest assignments included being a preacher at St. Clair Retreat in St. Clare, Michigan and Queen of Angels Retreat Center in Saginaw, and serving on the Mission Band.

To those who sought his help, Tom was always available. The compassion he showed toward the suffering was perhaps a result of his own suffering from bouts of depression for which he had to be hospitalized several times.

His last years were dedicated to a little parish in Michigan's Upper Peninsula where he had worked successfully for four years to heal the parish of its divisions.

Tom was making final preparations for a parish mission when he suffered a heart attack on his way from the rectory to the parish hall. He laid himself on the sidewalk, clasped the crucifix which he always carried in his pocket, and died.

Tom is buried at Mt. Calvary.

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May 10

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MARTIN FOERY [FURRY], who was affiliaed to the Province on this day in 1925.

Martin Foery lived in New York City. He was affiliated to the Province for having given considerable charitable donations to practically every friary. The date of his death is unknown.

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**DANIEL ANHOLZER, who died in Saginaw in 2010, at age 58, after 40 years of religious life and 29 years in the priesthood.**

Dan grew up in Kimberly, Wisconsin. He graduated from St. Lawrence Seminary before entering the novitiate in Huntington.

Even during his years in initial formation, Dan was a pathfinder. He was a member of a small experimental community whose goal was to live poorly among the poor. He had a lively interest in the missions and served on the Mission Advisory Council. During the Sandinista Revolution he did a year's internship at our Bluefields mission where he was also ordained to the diaconate.

Dan always understood that his primary vocation was to our brotherhood, and although he enjoyed ordained ministry, brotherhood always took priority in his life. Being brother was the way he related to people.

After ordination to the priesthood, Dan continued to minister in Bluefields, opting to join the General Vice Province of Central America. Although still a member of the Vice Province, Dan returned to the States to serve at the House of Peace in Milwaukee before being assigned as pastor of the "rainbow parish" of St. Joe's in Saginaw, Michigan. In time, he was formally reincorporated into the province and remained at St. Joe's for almost 18 years during which time he also served one term on the provincial council. During his tenure as pastor, Dan built the new church, parish offices, hall and rectory.

At the Provincial Chapter of 2002, Dan was re-elected to the Provincial Council. Bob Smith, a lay brother, was elected Provincial Minister. The required Roman confirmation of that election was denied and, following a consultative vote of the capitulars, Dan was appointed Provincial Minister. Three years later he was elected to a second term.

Dan also served as president of the North American-Pacific Capuchin Conference during the early years of the Conference-wide joint novitiate program. Through many challenges, Dan was steadfast in his support of the collaboration and insisted on finding ways to iron out the difficulties.

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May 12 (*continued...*)

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When Dan's term of office ended and after a year's sabbatical, he returned as pastor of St. Joe's Parish in Saginaw.

Dan had had a long history of heart problems. While walking his dogs, he collapsed near his garden. The dogs stood watch over him throughout the night until his lifeless body was discovered the next day.

Dan was an extraordinary person. Faith in Jesus as his Lord was the core out of which he lived his life and related to people. Because of his faith in God, Dan also had great faith in people and their abilities.

Dan is buried at Mt. Calvary.

**JOHN PFISTER, an Affiliate of the Province, who died on this day in 1984.**

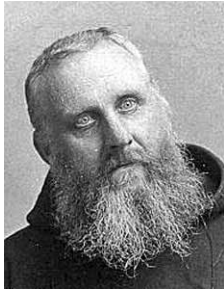
For his many years of faithful service as Executive Secretary and Treasurer of the St. Lawrence Seminary Alumni Association, John Pfister was affiliated to the Province on May 6, 1980.

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**LEO LEINS [LINES],** who died at Mt. Calvary in 1920, at age 69, after almost 48 years of religious life.

Leo was born in Germany and emigrated to America at age 16. Five years later, he entered the novitiate.

When Sacred Heart Monastery in Yonkers was established in 1891, Leo was one of the first members of that community, together with Bonaventure Frey [FRY], Casimir Lutfring and Cosmas Esser.

Leo put his talents to good use in the kitchen, the garden, and in the church. His warmth and friendliness made the Capuchins all the more popular among the people of Yonkers.

Leo was looking forward to celebrating his Golden Jubilee when Sister Death called him. He is buried at Mt. Calvary.



**CHRISTOPHER HAFNER,** who died at Marshfield in 1970, at age 65, after 41 years of religious life and 35 years in the priesthood.

Christopher was born and raised in rural Minnesota. Never afraid of hard work, already at age 13 he was farming 100 acres of land.

After ordination, Christopher served at Holy Cross Parish in Mt. Calvary and then at St. Joseph's Parish in St. Joe, Wisconsin, while teaching at Mt. Calvary. He served as pastor of Queen of Angels Parish in Harlem before being assigned to St. Labre Mission in Montana where he ministered to the Northern Cheyenne People at Birney, Muddy Creek, Lame Deer and Busby.

Throughout his life, Christopher loved the outdoors. He was a good athlete, and loved fishing, nature and reading. He was an expert marksman and enjoyed hunting big game in Montana and Wyoming.

Christopher was among the first friars of our Province to work in Saudi Arabia, although his assignment there was short-lived.

He was sent to the novitiate at Baraga as confessor for the novices and, later, as pastor of the Chippewa Indian Mission.

**continued ►**

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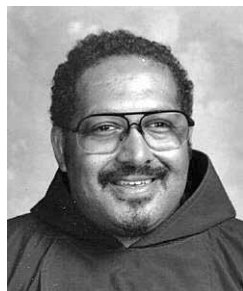
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As he was driving back to Baraga, Christopher attempted to pass three trucks when the lead truck turned into his lane. Christopher was thrown headlong from the car and sustained massive head injuries. He lived for two hours more, received the last sacraments, and died at St. Joseph Hospital in Marshfield.

Christopher is buried at Assinins.



**ANDREW DANIELS, who died in Rome, Italy, in 1995, at age 44, after almost 25 years of religious life and 17 years in the priesthood.**

Andy was born in Detroit and, although not a Catholic, attended a Catholic grade school where the Felician Sisters were instrumental in his conversion. Andy was in the sixth grade at the time, and when he converted, the rest of his family followed.

Andy entered St. Lawrence Seminary with a desire to become a Dominican. Soon, however, he was drawn to the life of the Capuchins.

Throughout his life Andy was eager to learn. He successfully completed a graduate degree in Educational Administration and began his doctoral studies.

Andy was an energetic, vibrant person. With his sense of humor and disarming charm, he was loved by everyone. Daily Eucharist was a vital part of his life.

Andy was very involved in the National Black Catholic Clergy Caucus and felt very strongly about the need to support and nurture minority vocations.

To celebrate his silver jubilee of profession, a trip was planned which would end in Rome. Despite not feeling well at the outset, Andy insisted on going. When he finally sought medical help, doctors discovered an intestinal blockage and shock due to inadequate blood circulation. The condition led to cardiac-circulatory arrest and Andy died at a Rome clinic.

**continued ►**

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At his funeral, many individuals shared their stories of how Andy had made a difference in their lives.

Andy is buried in Detroit.



**GERALD SCHMIDT**, who died in Wabeno [wah-BEAN-oh], Wisconsin, in the year 2000, at age 61, after 41 years of religious life and 33 years in the priesthood.

Gerry was born at Elcho, Wisconsin, but spent most of his childhood in Menomonee Falls. He was graduated from St. Lawrence Seminary before entering the novitiate at Baraga [BEH-ra-ga], Michigan.

The first 10 years of his priestly ministry were spent serving as hospital chaplain in various places, including Milwaukee, Wausau and Marquette.

His longest assignment was at St. Bonaventure's in Detroit where, over a 12-year period, he was part of the front office ministry, served as chaplain at Samaritan Health Care Center, and administered Holy Name Parish until it closed.

The last 10 years of his life were spent as pastor of St. Ambrose Parish in Wabeno. He also served as administrator of the neighboring parish in Lakewood. Besides ministering to the parishioners with great compassion and empathy, Gerry continued his lifelong love for gardening, genealogy and crocheting.

It was at Wabeno that Gerry suffered a fatal heart attack. The outpouring of affection on the part of the parishioners was a striking testament to just how deeply he was loved.

Gerry is buried at Mt. Calvary.

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**PETER SCHAMBECK**, who died in Brooklyn in 1932, at age 41, after 18 years of religious life and 12 years in the priesthood.

Peter was born in a small Bavarian village and came to America after meeting Fr. Antonine **[AN-toe-nine]** Wilmer who was returning from the General Chapter of 1908.

During the Epidemic of 1918, Peter contracted the dread Spanish Flu. He recovered, but it left him in poor health for the remainder of his life.

He served with great success as associate pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Appleton and St. Michael's in Brooklyn. He was especially zealous in fostering vocations for our Order.

When he returned to St. Michael's as pastor, Peter already enjoyed the esteem of the parishioners. His accomplishments include the transition of worship services from German to English, a substantial reduction in the parish debt, and the artistic embellishment of the church interior.

Quite unexpectedly, after undergoing surgery to remove his appendix, a blood clot claimed Peter's life. He was the fourth pastor of St. Michael's to die in office.

Peter is buried in Yonkers.



**PIUS PULVERMACHER** **[PULL-VER-MOCK-ER]**, who died at Kaukauna **[kaw-KAW-na]**, Wisconsin, in 2002, at age 82, after 61 years of religious life and 53 years in the priesthood.

Pius was born on a dairy farm in Bakerville, Wisconsin. When he finished grade school he worked on the farm for two years before entering St. Lawrence College in Mt. Calvary.

Pius was a fun-loving person with a great sense of humor. He never took himself too seriously, and could accept his shortcomings.

In Milwaukee, he served at both St. Elizabeth Parish and St. Francis Parish, and was also chaplain of St. Michael Hospital.

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After serving one term as Guardian of St. Francis, Milwaukee, he had short assignments in Detroit, Baraga and St. Labre, filling in where needed.

When a need arose for someone to serve in Saudi Arabia, Pius was asked if he would be interested in going. His response was, "If you want to send me, I will go anywhere." For the next 12 years, Pius served at Ras Tanura, a port city on the Persian Gulf.

When he returned to the States, Pius took a quarter of Clinical Pastoral Education and spent two years as assistant chaplain at Trinity Hospital in Cudahy [CUD-uh-he], Wisconsin.

He was named administrator of Sacred Heart Parish in Cassel, Wisconsin, where he remained for 13 years.

After a brief period at the House of Prayer in Madison, Pius resumed chaplaincy work at the Agnesian Sisters' Boyle Home in Fond du Lac and lived in an apartment.

When he was diagnosed with diabetes, Pius required large daily doses of insulin which seemed to affect his memory. Concern was raised about his ability to live alone, and he moved first to St. Fidelis Friary in Appleton and eventually to St. Paul Home in Kaukauna. It was there that he died.

Pius is buried at Mt. Calvary.

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May 15

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**DR. ANDREW RUSSO, an Affiliate of the Province, who died on this day in 1984.**

Dr. Russo had given years of medical service to the friars at Crown Point, Indiana when he was affiliated to the Province on February 10, 1970.

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**PIUS STUTZER**, who died at Ashland, Montana, in 1940, at age 62, after 42 years of religious life and 35 years in the priesthood.

Pius was born and raised in Pittsburgh. After his father died, Pius was raised by an uncle who was a famous organist and a personal friend of Bonaventure Frey [FRY] and the Capuchins. Musical talent was handed down to Pius by his uncle, and played a significant role in his life and ministry.

For a time Pius studied with the Jesuits, but then he enrolled at St. Lawrence College where he led the choir, band and orchestra.

Once ordained a priest, Pius served as both chaplain of St. Joseph's Hospital and associate pastor of St. Francis Parish in Milwaukee. He worked well with the youth.

Pius was the type of person who loved harmony both in music and in life. In relating to people he was neither stubborn nor set in his opinions, but rather, was flexible and open to new and different ideas.

When the pastor died unexpectedly, Pius was named pastor of St. Francis. Under his leadership, the church was restored and redecorated; the old windows were replaced with new stained glass of rare beauty; a new wooden floor was laid under the pews; electrical lighting was installed; and both the servers' sacristy and the church entrance were built.

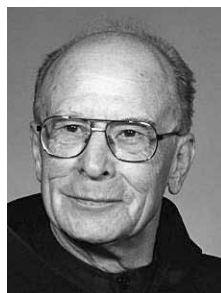
Once the parish debt was reduced, he transformed the former Stolper barrel factory located across from the church into the parish hall and auditorium. He opened a two-year Commercial School for girls. Although it was an immediate success, it was ordered discontinued when Messmer High School was built. Pius also built the Parish Social Center, complete with a bowling alley, soda fountain and gymnasium.

After 11 years, Pius was transferred to Montana. There he built the church at Broadus.

Pius was repairing a piano when he suffered what was thought to be a fainting spell. Soon afterward, however, his condition worsened, he received the Last Sacraments, and died peacefully surrounded by his Capuchin brothers.

Pius is buried in Milwaukee.

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- V. Eternal rest grant to him (them), O Lord.  
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 R. Amen.



**EPHREM HERTEL, who died in Detroit in 1988, at age 75, after 56 years in the Order and 49 years in the priesthood.**

Ephrem was born in Chilton, Wisconsin, the sixth of twelve children. After graduating from St. Mary's School in Chilton, he entered St. Lawrence College in Mt. Calvary.

Ephrem's first assignment after ordination was as professor and prefect at St. Lawrence. Four years later, he was named pastor of St. Joseph Parish in St. Joe, Wisconsin, while continuing to teach at the Hill.

When he became pastor of the larger Holy Cross Parish in Mt. Calvary, he had to relinquish his teaching role at the seminary. In all of his assignments, Ephrem never shied away from physically-demanding work, whether it involved maintenance, building, landscaping or painting.

After 15 years, Ephrem was asked to go to St. Anthony Parish in Saginaw, Michigan, where he remained for six years. Racial diversity and poverty were new dimensions in his ministry. He enjoyed the richness of the experience, and put his carpentry and other skills at the service of the poor.

Ephrem faced his biggest challenge when he became pastor of St. Joseph's in Appleton. He was successful in bringing the parish out of debt. When the Provincial Chapter of 1973 adopted a team approach to ministry, three friars, including Ephrem, were assigned to co-pastor St. Joe's Parish. The experience was not successful and eventually was abandoned.

In the meantime, Ephrem experienced heart problems, and underwent open heart surgery to replace a faulty valve.

After eight years at Appleton, he was asked to become a health care chaplain in Warren, Michigan. In spite of his reluctance to leave Appleton, the last ten years of his life proved to be his happiest. He was loved in the nursing homes he served and at St. Rene's Parish where he had a regular help-out.

Cancer was to claim Ephrem's life, but through it all, he never lost his sense of humor. When he could no longer manage in the Warren house, he moved into St. Bonaventure's where he passed away.

Ephrem is buried at Mt. Calvary where his blood brother, Fidelis, of St. Mary's Province, is also buried.

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**BERARD [BURR-ARD] HAAS, who died in Brooklyn in 1949, at age 61, after 40 years of religious life.**

Berard was born in Bavaria and raised as a Protestant. After finishing his schooling, he became a barber and was qualified in First Aid and ambulance service. After visiting the Shrine of the Blessed Virgin at Altötting [al-TET-ing], Berard moved to Goldach [GOAL-dock], Switzerland and converted to Catholicism.

Goldach was the hometown of Archbishop Sebastian Messmer and his brother, Capuchin Gabriel Messmer. Once, when the Archbishop was at home, Berard was asked to give him a haircut. In the course of their conversation, Berard spoke about his vocation. Soon afterward, Gabriel Messmer was passing through Goldach on his return from the General Chapter, and Berard was accepted as a candidate for the Calvary Province.

Berard served in various friaries as cook, and occasionally as porter and sacristan. He also continued to give haircuts, and helped with electrical needs, carpentry, plumbing sandal-making, gardening and tailoring. His cheerful disposition and good nature were appreciated by everyone.

Berard is buried at Yonkers.



**DR. DANIEL LAFERTE, an Affiliate of the Province, who died on this day in 1924.**

Dr. LaFerte was a professor of orthopedic surgery at the Detroit College of Medicine and Surgery, a member of the Detroit Surgical Society, and served on the staffs of Harper Hospital and Children's Free Hospital. He was affiliated to the Province through St. Bonaventure Monastery on December 27, 1923.

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**CONRAD POLZER, who died in Milwaukee in 1959, at age 55, after 37 years of religious life and 31 years in the priesthood.**

Conrad was born in Budapest, Hungary. When he was five years old, the family came to the United States and settled in Harlem.

His first assignment after ordination was as associate pastor of St. Elizabeth Parish in Milwaukee. Three years later, he was transferred to St. Francis Parish in Milwaukee, a change that would set the direction of the rest of his life.

At St. Francis, Conrad was appointed Director of the German-speaking Third Order. His German was so terrible, that the Secular Franciscans found it amusing and took the sociable, short friar into their hearts. A year later, the German and English branches were united, and Conrad was named the Director of the entire fraternity.

Conrad served as Third Order Director at St. Francis for 24 years, and later served as Provincial Third Order Commissary. He was so synonymous with the Secular Franciscans that he became known as “Father Third Order”.

Conrad had a great sense of humor and an infectious laugh. He enjoyed playing popular songs on the piano while his rich voice sang along. He was popular with youth and actively participated in their activities, especially tennis and bowling. His efforts led to a large and active Youth Fraternity. As part of his ministry, he penned numerous pamphlets, booklets and leaflets.

At age 52, Conrad was hospitalized for a serious heart condition. He was relieved of his other duties and became Director of the Third Order at St. Benedict’s in Milwaukee, where he also taught in the high school and assisted in the parish. His writing for the Third Order continued and he was chosen chairperson of the National Executive Board of the Third Order.

Conrad suffered a stroke and died a few hours later at St. Anthony’s Hospital, surrounded by his Capuchin community. Thousands of mourners came to St. Ben’s to pay their respects. Two months later, the Third Order conducted a pilgrimage to his grave to pray for and honor him. Over 1,000 Third Order members from throughout Wisconsin were in attendance.

Conrad is buried at Mt. Calvary.

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**BERTHOLD [BIRTH-HOLD] ASCHER**, who died in Ashland, Montana, in 1967, at age 78, after 52 years of religious life.

Berthold was born in Sheboygan and raised in Birnamwood, Wisconsin. He attended the County Public School up to the fifth grade. The family was poor, but closely knit. His father was a skilled carpenter and cabinet maker, a skill which he handed on to all his sons.

Most of Berthold's Capuchin life was spent tailoring — at Milwaukee, Brooklyn, Marathon, Huntington, Detroit and Montana. His inventions and innovations were masterful, especially the cord machine fashioned from old typewriter parts, and the wooden clothes dryer that ran on gas.

Most of all, Berthold is remembered for his ministry at St. Labre's in Montana. He dedicated himself to serving and bringing happiness into the lives of others.

He always had his pockets full of candy for the children, and thus earned the nickname, "Brother Candy." The children would spot him at a distance and come running to him. Once, Berthold was traveling with the Bishop from Miles City to St. Labre for Confirmation. As they drove into the school yard, the children spotted Berthold and came running to the car. By the time the car came to a stop, there were 200 children gathered around. During dinner that evening, the Bishop remarked how friendly the children had been. He recalled previous visits to St. Labre and remarked, "This was the first time that the children came running to greet me. They were always very timid and would run to hide when I came around." No one had the heart to tell the Bishop the truth.

As St. Labre developed and modernized, Berthold sometimes longed for a less built-up place that could still use his homegrown skills. So at age 78, he transferred to the mission at St. Xavier **[ZAY-vier]**.

Meanwhile, age and poor health were taking their toll. Berthold confided to a friar: "There are many things I want to do for the mission, but my time is up. I am grateful to have been a part of this great work."

Throughout his last illness, Berthold never complained. He died peacefully. The funeral and burial rites were held at Crown Point, Indiana. Later, those buried in the Crown Point cemetery were moved to Huntington.

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  - ℟. Amen.

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

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**BERNARDINE SCHMITZ**, who died in Wauwatosa in 1919, at age 66, after 50 years of religious life and 43 years in the priesthood.

Bernardine was born in Germany and emigrated to America at age 13. He was invested a few months prior to his 17<sup>th</sup> birthday and was ordained to the priesthood at age 22.

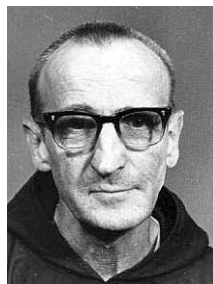
Bernardine served in many capacities: preacher, pastor, teacher, librarian and confessor. He ministered in New York City, Calvary, Appleton, Detroit, Milwaukee and Wauwatosa.

He succeeded Francis Haas as pastor and Guardian of St. Joseph's in Appleton. The parish had organizations for the adult parishioners, but nothing for teenagers and young adults. Bernardine filled that gap and had part of the old school remodeled for the use as a club room, or "casino" as it was then called.

He also took the reins of the devotion to the Sacred Heart after the death of Francis Haas. He obtained statues of the Sacred Heart and the Immaculate Heart of Mary for the sanctuary of St. Joseph's Church, and introduced the Archconfraternity of the Sacred Heart there.

Bernardine died on the day after his Golden Religious Jubilee.

He is buried in Milwaukee.



**CHRISTOPHER KAEPLINGER [KEP-linger]**, who died in Appleton in 1993, at age 72, after 35 years of religious life.

Christopher was born and raised in Chicago. He served in the Coast Guard during World War II. With the end of the war, he returned to Chicago where he worked in a silk screen printing company. There he gained an eye for detail and a determination to get the job done perfectly. "Good enough" was not good enough for Christopher.

Christopher entered the Brothers' Novitiate in Milwaukee. During that year, he was diagnosed with Tuberculosis and had to spend the next year and a half recovering at a Milwaukee sanitarium.

**continued ►**

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Christopher was invested again at Mt. Calvary. A few months later, the novitiate was re-located to Detroit, where Christopher made his first profession. He continued his formation at Marathon where he learned to cook.

His first assignment after perpetual profession was as cook for the large community at St. Francis in Milwaukee. He remained there for 10 years. He also served as cook at Marathon and St. Benedict's in Milwaukee. During his 10 years at St. Lawrence in Mt. Calvary, he worked in the print shop. Psychological problems began to manifest themselves. Christopher became almost a recluse and developed an aversion to being touched, as well as to women.

Finally, Christopher retired to St. Fidelis in Appleton and his life changed for the better. Visitors began to report how Chris was the person who greeted them at the door and invited them to share a cup of coffee. He would visit and chat with them in a way that he never seemed to be able to do before.

Chris seemed to be happier and more at peace than he had been for many years. Things were going so well that his death came as a shock. He had not been sick; he just passed away quietly in his sleep.

Christopher is buried at Mt. Calvary.

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**NORBERT KREBS, who died in New York City, in 1914, at age 67, after 40 years of religious life.**

Working as a glass-blower in Brooklyn, Norbert was 27 when he joined the Capuchins.

Most of his assignments were short-term. He served in maintenance at Our Lady of Sorrows in New York City and also at Mt. Calvary. All of his other assignments were as cook — in Milwaukee at St. Francis; in New York at Our Lady of Angels, Our Lady of Sorrows and St. Fidelis; in Detroit at St. Bonaventure's; in Appleton at St. Joseph's; and at Mt. Calvary.

Norbert was a cheerful, quiet individual. He is buried at Yonkers.

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**ANTHONY WILL**, who died at Mt. Calvary in 2007, at age 86, after 65 years of religious life and 60 years in the priesthood.

Tony was born in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin and the family later moved to Menasha. He attended St. Lawrence Seminary for a year before being invested with the Capuchin habit at the novitiate in Huntington.

During his seminary days at Marathon, Tony showed an interest in the foreign missions and took the initiative to study Spanish. When he finished his theological studies, he was sent to Rome where he studied Canon Law and Missiology. Upon completion of his post-graduate courses, he was sent to the Bluefields Mission in Nicaragua where he served for 18 years.

Due to his background in Canon Law, Tony served as secretary, chancellor and councilor to Bishop Matthew Niedhammer [NEED-hammer]. He was also involved in various building projects, including the seminary and chancery, and also ran the print shop, tile shop, carpenter shop and mechanic shop.

Tony was the first Capuchin in Nicaragua to facilitate communication among the missionaries and with the “outside world” through use of a ham radio.

When Tony returned to the States, he was named associate pastor for the Spanish-speaking of St. Joseph’s Parish in Saginaw, Michigan.

Even when he was no longer technically a member of the Mission, Tony continued to work on behalf of the Mission, especially as associate in the Mission Secretariat. His enthusiasm for the missions inspired in others a desire to become missionaries. For 10 years, he helped coordinate a summer Spanish program for prospective missionaries.

When the Sisters of St. Agnes needed a chaplain at their motherhouse, Tony volunteered and remained there for almost 22 years.

For many years Tony knew he needed knee replacement surgery. Finally, unable to move, he sought medical help. The operation, however, did not turn out well, and Tony was left disabled. He retired to St. Lawrence Friary in Mt. Calvary and later transferred to nearby Villa Loreto where he remained until his death.

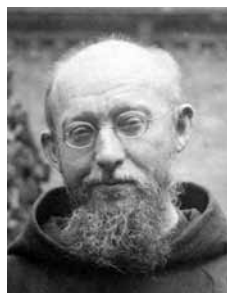
Tony, the untiring dedicated missionary, is buried at Mt. Calvary.

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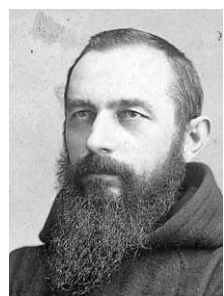


**Bernard Heilig [HIGH-lig]**, who died in New York City in 1926, at age 62, after 41 years of religious life and 35 years in the priesthood.

Born in Germany, Bernard was a quiet, serious-minded youth. He came to America at age 20 and entered the novitiate one year later. Throughout his life he suffered from very poor eyesight.

Bernard was a very good preacher, had a good singing voice, and was sought after as a confessor. He was always ready and willing to help others in any way he could.

Bernard is buried in Yonkers.



**GABRIEL MESSMER**, who died in Detroit in 1928, at age 78, after 53 years of religious life and 47 years in the priesthood.

Gabriel stands among the pillars of our Province. He was born into a well-to-do family in Switzerland, and was trained to take over the family estate and inn located on Lake Constance. Gabriel's brother, Sebastian, became a diocesan priest and emigrated to America where he taught Canon Law at Seton Hall and eventually became the archbishop of Milwaukee.

Intent on joining the Calvary Capuchins, Gabriel arrived in New York City and had an interview with Bonaventure Frey [FRY] the very next day. He entered the novitiate a few months later. Because of pressing needs, his course of seminary studies was accelerated and he was ordained.

Gabriel served in our House of Studies and in a few of our parishes, but his greatest impact was as long-time novice master and provincial minister.

In 1888, Gabriel was elected to the provincial council. He was re-elected for five consecutive terms – 15 years. During the 1891 visit of the General Minister, Bernard of Andermatt was so impressed with Gabriel that he remarked: "There is your novice master," and for the next 12 years, Gabriel served as novice master in Detroit until 1903 when he was elected provincial minister.

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Up to that time, only four friars had held the office of provincial minister. All four were men of remarkable ability. With the exception of Bonaventure Frey [FRY], however, their leadership style reflected an understanding of law and authority that was rigorous and unyielding. Both as novice master and as provincial minister, Gabriel gave a more human face to the exercise of authority. He was approachable and unthreatening. Although he was not re-elected after his first term in office, Gabriel's leadership style caught on in the Province. It was adopted by Antonine Wilmer who succeeded him as provincial minister, and by the directors of our houses of studies and scholasticates. The lesson gleaned from Gabriel's life was immortalized in *A Romance of Lady Poverty*, namely, that for good or for ill, at every level of leadership, the style with which authority is exercised directly effects the morale of the friars and their commitment to our way of life [see *A Romance of Lady Poverty*, 402].

After three years, Gabriel was again elected to the provincial council and after another three years — a week following the death of the last founder —, he was elected to a second term as provincial minister. This marked a transition in the Province. With the death of Bonaventure Frey [FRY], the pioneer days were over. Gabriel consolidated the Province as the process of Americanization continued. Due to illness, old age and death, the Province was also experiencing a severe personnel shortage and since the diocesan clergy was sufficient in number to staff parishes, there was a growing desire in the Province to leave parish ministry and to return to a more traditional Capuchin lifestyle and ministries. When his term ended, the first American-born provincial minister was elected and Gabriel resumed his ministry as novice master for another five years – a total of 19 years, when he resigned for reasons of health and failing memory.

Two years before his death, Gabriel suffered a debilitating stroke. When the end finally came, he was surrounded by the provincial minister and the local fraternity in prayer.

Whether owing to his training in the Swiss art of hospitality or to his natural temperament, Gabriel humanized the Province. He is buried in Detroit.

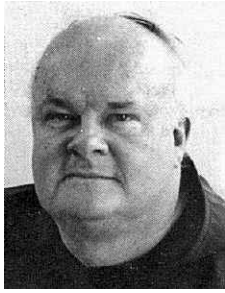
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JOSEPH FRANCIS RAUCH [ROUK], who died in Peoria, Illinois, in 1989, at age 59, after 40 years of religious life and 32 years in the priesthood.

At the time of his birth, the Rauch Family was residing in the village of Valders, Wisconsin, where Joey Francis' father practiced medicine. The family soon moved to Manitowoc. After finishing grade school and graduating from St. Lawrence College and Scholasticate, Joey Francis entered the novitiate at Huntington.

Joey Francis had a great love for classical music and was an accomplished pianist. He was an excellent student with a great memory for detail. He also had a facility for languages, especially Latin and Greek. His one regret in life was that he was never chosen to go on for higher studies.

Throughout his life, Joey Francis had a series of relatively short assignments. He taught Latin at St. Lawrence, served as retreat director in Appleton and Saginaw, was on loan to the Capuchins of Central Canada, served the Secular Franciscans in Huntington, assisted in the library at Marathon, and taught at Baraga High School in Marquette where he also served as chaplain to the Knights of Columbus. The last 16 years of his life were spent in parish ministry, first on Mackinac Island and then in Brimley, Michigan, before Joey Francis offered his services to the Diocese of Peoria.

His last assignment was as pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Campus, Illinois. A severe cold led to double pneumonia for which he was admitted to the hospital in Pontiac, Illinois. When his condition worsened he was transferred to the intensive care unit of St. Francis Medical Center in Peoria where he passed away.

The people he served had a genuine love for Joey Francis. He was generous, sincere, caring and religious.

He is buried at Mt. Calvary.

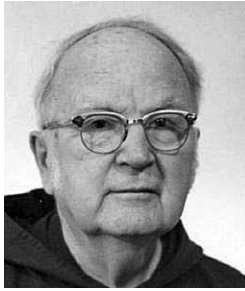
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**BERNARD BURKE, who died in Detroit in 1985, at age 85, after 65 years of religious life and 57 years in the priesthood.**

Bernard was born in Port Washington, Wisconsin. Tragically, within a week of his birth, his mother died. He attended St. Lawrence College and scholasticate before entering the novitiate in Detroit.

During Bernard's seminary days at Marathon, Romuald Joos [juice], the strongest of his classmates, died of tuberculosis. Less than a year later, Bernard, who had just been ordained a deacon, was diagnosed with the same dread disease. With his goal of priesthood in sight, Bernard was removed from studies and sent to the county sanitarium. He turned these events into a profound learning experience. Through prayer and counseling he found peace which he later claimed saved his life.

While still a patient, and with special permission, Bernard was ordained by Archbishop Sebastian Messmer in the archbishop's private chapel in the old Pabst Mansion in Milwaukee.

It took two more years of recuperation before Bernard was given his first assignment, taking weekend help-outs in Huntington. His popularity among the people and the friars grew so quickly that he was elected delegate to the next provincial chapter. The chapter assigned him to Yonkers as circulation manager of the magazine *Sandal Prints*. He also assisted in parish ministry.

During World War II, Bernard was sent to Detroit as Director of the Soup Kitchen. He formed a close friendship with Mr. Ray McDonough. Due to the war effort, unemployment was low in Detroit and the pressure was on to close the Soup Kitchen. Those who continued to seek help at the Soup Kitchen were often berated. To Bernard's credit, not only did he save the Soup Kitchen, but through his public relations he made new influential friends for the Kitchen and the monastery. He solicited enough funds to put the Capuchin Charity Guild on sound financial footing and became the arbitrator for the workers. Every day he greeted the guests with his big Irish smile, getting to know many of them on a first name basis. He served in Detroit for 15 years during which time he also served two terms as local minister and one term on the provincial council.

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## May 27 (*continued...*)

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

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Bernard expected to continue his ministry in the Soup Kitchen, but the Chapter of 1956 appointed his local minister at our college-level House of Formation in Huntington. Reluctant to leave Detroit and doubtful that he was capable of — in his words — “coping with a crowd of adolescent intellectuals”, in six years he gained the love and affection of the young friars even though Bernard himself did not think he had accomplished that much. When the students moved into the new facility at Crown Point, Bernard followed.

Bernard was assigned as a preacher at Monte Alverno Retreat Center in Appleton — a ministry in which he felt totally inadequate. When an opening became available for an assistant at St. Joseph’s Parish in Appleton, Bernard took the offer and remained there for nine years.

The last 12 years of his life were spent at St. Bonaventure’s in Detroit. Just a year after celebrating his golden priestly jubilee, one of his vocal chords became paralyzed. Bernard could no longer preach or counsel or share in vocal prayer. Even prolonged conversations became impossible. No sound escaped his lips except a guttural whisper. None the less, he kept faithful to prayer, study and reading, and wrote a 16-page autobiography filled with wit and wisdom, bits of sarcasm and an abundance of faith. He continued to communicate with a twinkle of his eye and a radiant smile.

Bernard died two days shy of his 58<sup>th</sup> ordination anniversary and is buried in Detroit.

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**LOUIS HENGEN**, who died in Harlem, New York, in 1907, at age 58, after 39 years of religious life and 35 years in the priesthood.

Louis was born in Germany. He studied at Mt. Calvary from 1867 to 1868 and was a novice at the time of the Great Fire at Calvary. He was one of the friars that the good Notre Dame Sisters housed after the monastery had been destroyed.

Ordained a priest, he served at St. Francis in Milwaukee, Our Lady of Angels in New York City, and Our Lady of Sorrows in Harlem. Louis was gifted with a powerful voice which he used well for preaching and singing.

He was a bit prone to exaggeration which opened him to frequent fraternal teasing. All who knew him loved him for his admirable patience and kindness.

Louis is buried in Yonkers.



**DANIEL HOLMES**, Tertiary, who died in Detroit in 1965, at age 67, after 5 years of religious life.

Daniel was born in Ottawa, Canada. He worked for the railroad until emigrating to the United States in 1924. He settled in Detroit where he lived with his brother-in-law's family on Martindale Avenue and worked as a checker in a meat packer firm.

He was invested at Huntington in 1931 but left before making profession. He later joined the Pittsburgh Province and was perpetually professed. After about 20 years he left the Order for reasons of health.

In 1960, Daniel was received as a Third Order Brother at Saginaw, Michigan, where he quietly served at Queen of Angels Retreat Center for a few years. He was transferred to St. Bonaventure's in Detroit and led a humble, hidden life until his death.

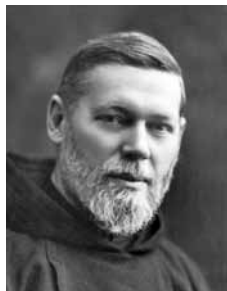
Daniel is buried in Detroit.

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**THEODOSIUS FOLEY, who died at Garrison in 1951, at age 67, after 44 years of religious life and 37 years in the priesthood.**

Theodosius was born in the poor, Irish section of Yonkers known as “the Glen” and attended St. Joseph’s church and school. He was the second of six children. His father died in an accident, leaving behind a young widow. Theodosius helped bring up the younger children and delivered the *Yonkers Herald* to help support the family. It was through his paper route that he got to know the Capuchins at Sacred Heart.

He frequently visited the friary and was befriended by Stephen Eckert. When Theodosius mentioned his desire to become a Capuchin priest, Stephen tutored him in the required Latin in preparation for the seminary at Mt. Calvary.

Theodosius’ first assignment after ordination was as prefect of the Seraphicate in Yonkers. Because he was an interesting conversationalist, he soon found himself much in demand as a public speaker. He was named Rector of the Seraphicate when it was still located in the basement of Sacred Heart in Yonkers and then when it moved to Glenclyffe, where he was the first local minister and served on the provincial council. Because of the severe shortage of personnel in the Province, the workload was heavy. Not only did he see to the running of the Seraphicate, but he also taught, provided spiritual direction, and took care of the sick. He served as rector for 19 years.

Theodosius was elected provincial minister during a critical period in our history. The Province was heavily in debt. Extraordinary expenditures were kept to the bare minimum, and transparency marked his frequent reports to the Province. He relied heavily on capable advisers. Still, despite the challenges, complicated by insomnia and other ailments, Theodosius was always positive and accessible to the friars.

It was during Theodosius’ term of office that missionary activity came to the fore in the Province. In 1930, the Province was urged to assume the pastoral care of the newly created Diocese of Lucknow in India. Richard Brunner was sent as the first missionary there. By 1938, a large building was

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secured for the future American Capuchin missionaries. Before finalizing the mission arrangements, however, the diocesan clergy of Lucknow raised a strong protest against the arrival of American Capuchins, and Theodosius asked the general superiors to be freed of this commitment. Rome acceded to the request, which eventually led to the missions of Guam and Bluefields, Nicaragua being offered to the Province. Theodosius dispatched the first three missionaries to each mission.

As provincial minister, Theodosius also built up the Mission Band, gave new impetus to retreat work, and encouraged the Secular Franciscan movement. His writing continued, and Theodosius was considered one of the foremost spiritual authors of the day.

When his second term as provincial minister ended, Theodosius chose Yonkers as his residence. After three years, however, he was asked to take charge of Monte Alverno Retreat Center in Appleton. He loved this work and received the full cooperation of those around him. It was something of a surprise, then, when the next Chapter asked the now 65-year-old Theodosius to become the director of the 73 student friars at Glenclyffe.

Within little more than a year, Theodosius' health began to fail and he was diagnosed with cancer of the liver, with only a few months to live. He continued to work as long as he could. As his life was ebbing away, he kept repeating, "O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee." With the Guardian at his side and the entire community gathered in or around his room, Theodosius breathed his last.

He is buried in Yonkers.



**ROCH RUPPEL [RUE-PULL], who died at Mt. Calvary in 1955, at age 80, after 56 years of religious life.**

Roch was born and raised in New York City. Before entering the Order he worked as a plumber and steamfitter. His contact with friars at Pitt Street led to his joining the Order at age 24.

He served as general handyman at St. Joe's in Appleton, baker at Wauwatosa, and plumber, sandal maker and baker at St. Francis, Milwaukee.

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He later served at Huntington, St. Elizabeth's in Milwaukee and Mt. Calvary.

As a baker, Roch was renowned, especially for his huge loaves of bread, and his plumbing work was excellent. Whatever he did, he did well. He was always ready to do a favor and was well-liked because of his cheerfulness.

When lay women and the Sisters of Christ the King joined the kitchen staff at St. Lawrence, Roch served as sacristan and porter. As time went on, he formed a unique friendship with Brother Hugo. Hugo was practically blind, so Roch would read to him. Roch was practically deaf, so Hugo would relay messages to him. Despite the hardships of age, Roch continued to serve the community until he suffered a stroke. He died almost a month later.

Roch was a man of sterling qualities. He is buried at Mt. Calvary.



**CARL PULVERMACHER, who died at Dickinson, Texas, in 2006, at age 80, after 61 years of religious life, and 53 years in the priesthood.**

Carl, the sixth of nine children, was born on a farm in Bakerville, Wisconsin. Four of the Pulvermacher sons became Capuchin priests: Carl, Lucian, Pius and Claude. He attended St. Lawrence Seminary in Mt. Calvary and worked as a farmhand and in a cheese factory during his vacations. He followed his two older brothers into the Order.

After ordination, Carl served at our Mission in Montana for 17 years, 12 as assistant pastor at St. Labre and five as pastor at St. Xavier.

In the aftermath of the Second Vatican Council, Carl chose to resign his pastorate rather than implement the liturgical reforms. He was transferred to Marathon where he engaged mostly in manual labor.

After two years, he volunteered for Australia. It was there that he joined the followers of Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre, the so-called "Traditional Catholics" and the Society of Pius X. Carl always considered himself a Capuchin and no formal action was ever taken against him, despite the fact that the last 30 years of his life were spent "outside of obedience". He served groups of Traditional Catholics in Texas and in South Florida, and co-founded a magazine for Traditional Catholics, *The Angelus*.

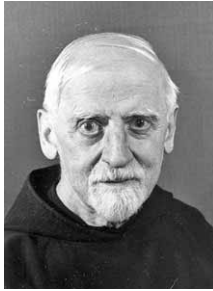
Carl is buried in Mount Olivet Catholic Cemetery in Dickinson, Texas.

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

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**LOUIS BIRSACK [BEER-sock]**, who died at Mt. Calvary in 1983, at age 88, after 68 years of religious life and 64 years in the priesthood.

Louie was born in Bavaria. At age three, he lost his sight. His mother made a novena to the Immaculate Conception, bathed the child's eyes in Lourdes water, and on the ninth day, he regained his sight. At age five, the sick youngster was given up for dead. Again, through the power of prayer, he was restored to health.

Early in life, Louie decided that he wanted to become a priest. After the death of his father, his mother re-married. When his step-father died, Louie was 18. His mother pleaded with him to take over the farm and help support the family. Despite her tears, the opportunity opened for Louie to go to Mt. Calvary to become a Capuchin priest and he took it. It was one of the most difficult decisions he ever had to make.

After a year at the College and another in the Scholasticate, he entered the novitiate in Detroit. It was during his student years that the House of Theology moved from Milwaukee to Marathon. Louie was ordained to the priesthood nine days after receiving his American citizenship.

His first assignment was to Mt. Calvary where he taught Latin, Greek and German, was the friary librarian, and took parish help-outs on weekends. He was also the house chronicler from 1921 to 1970.

The one year he was not at Calvary was the year he spent helping the Bavarian Capuchins, teaching in their seminary. He might have stayed longer except that Adolf Hitler rose to power, which caused Louie to return to the States. He spent the rest of his life at Calvary.

Even into Louie's old age, the Bavarian Capuchins repeatedly begged for his return. It was another very difficult decision for Louie. In the end, he decided to remain where he was.

Probably as an outgrowth of his years of giving conferences to the brothers, Louie's book, *The Lives of the Saints and Blessed of the Third Order*, was published by Franciscan Herald Press.

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Louie's health gradually declined, and 11 days before his 89<sup>th</sup> birthday, he passed to his eternal reward.

Louie was honored and respected by all. He was wonderful, jovial, kind and learned. He loved music; he loved to sing; he loved a good cigar, and he loved to celebrate.

Louie is buried at Mt. Calvary.



**FINTAN SCHAUB [SHAWB], an Affiliate of the Province, who died on this day in 1966.**

Fintan Schaub was born and raised in Mt. Calvary, so he knew the Capuchins from childhood. He went into the plumbing and roofing business in Mt. Calvary and never married.

When he was critically injured in an automobile accident, he prayed for healing and promised that if he recovered, he would give the rest of his life to serving the Capuchins. He recovered, sold his share of the business and then proceeded to keep his part of the bargain. After spending two summers at St. Labre he came to stay on October 4, 1932. Fintan brought with him many skills, many interests and hobbies and a beautiful, gentle personality.

Being Swiss, Fintan had a gift for singing and yodeling. He was also a camera enthusiast and took many photos and movies of life on the Mission.

Fintan was by nature very generous and very cheerful. There are even hints of miracles in his life. When the country was experiencing drought in the mid-1930s, Fintan took the barrel of water he used for his garden and placed it in front of the grotto. He invited everyone and anyone to take water. Everyone did, and mysteriously, the barrel never ran out and never needed to be refilled.

Fintan left St. Labre for a period to serve the Capuchins in other places but he returned in 1954 and remained there until his death in 1966.

Fintan was affiliated to the Province on December 17, 1933.

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- ∇. Eternal rest grant to him (them), O Lord.  
℟. And let perpetual light shine upon him (them).  
∇. May his (their) soul(s), and all the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God rest in peace.  
℟. Amen.
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