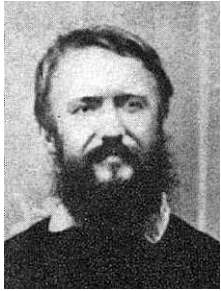


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In charity, let us remember our deceased whose anniversary of death occurs tomorrow.

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**ANTON MARIA GACHET [GUH-SHAY]**, who died in Switzerland in 1890, at age 67, after 48 years of religious life, and 43 years in the priesthood.

Born in the renowned cheese-making area of Gruyère [gree-AIR], Anton graduated from the famed Jesuit University of Saint Michel [mee-SHELL] in Fribourg [FREE-borg]. He joined the Swiss Capuchins and, after ordination, served as a hospital chaplain and local minister.

Anton had an ardent desire to become a missionary to the Native Peoples of North America. He agreed to be the first novice master of the Calvary Foundation, with the understanding that once established, he would be free to be a full time missionary. Events did not develop exactly as he had planned.

After two tumultuous years, he left Calvary to minister among the Menominee [men-NAH-mun-knee] People at Keshena [kuh-SHEE-nuh], where his sharp linguistic skills enabled him to compose a grammar of the Menominee language. Anton did exemplary work among the Native Peoples.

His friend and Swiss confrere, Bishop Anastase Hartmann [AN-uh-stays HART-mahn] invited Anton to join his mission in India, where Anton served as the Bishop's secretary, confidant and missionary.

After Hartmann's death, Anton Maria returned to Switzerland where he distinguished himself as a preacher, confessor and professor. He died and was buried at Fribourg [FREE-borg].



**FRANCIS BENOIT [BEN-OYT]**, who died in Sheboygan in 1956, at age 53, after 9 years of religious life.

Francis came from Mount Clemens, Michigan. He worked as a tool and die set-up man at Ford's, and belonged to Assumption Grotto Church in Detroit where he was an active member of the Secular Franciscans before joining us.

**continued ►**

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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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## February 1 (*continued...*)

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**In charity, let us remember our deceased whose anniversary of death occurs tomorrow.**

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Although he only had a sixth-grade education, he was very talented at mechanics, carpentry and in the kitchen. Because he was needed at home, he could not enter the Order until age 42.

After completing his novitiate in Detroit, Francis served as cook in Garrison, Yonkers and Huntington.

He volunteered for the missions and served for four years on Saipan and Guam. Upon his return to the Province, he was assigned to St. Francis in Milwaukee where he put his skills to good use.

Francis accepted an invitation to visit Calvary which he had never seen. On the way, the car in which he was riding skidded on ice and crashed into a utility pole. Francis sustained a skull fracture and died at St. Nicholas Hospital in Sheboygan a few days later.

Liked for his lively, cheerful and sociable personality, Francis was full of energy. He was a very hard worker who prized efficiency and was persistent in getting things done. His death was a tragic loss for the Province.

Francis is buried at Mt. Calvary.

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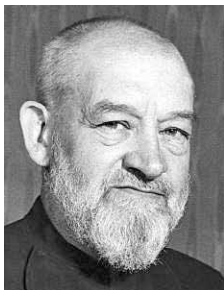


**HERMAN BENZIGER [BEN-ZIG-ER],** who died in Milwaukee in 1905, at age 40, after 5 years of religious life.

Herman was born into a Swiss family with aristocratic roots. He worked as a bookbinder before emigrating to Brooklyn at 21 years of age. He joined us at age 34.

After his first assignment at Mt. Calvary, Herman was placed in charge of the kitchen at St. Francis in Milwaukee.

Herman was quite somber and not very talkative. His quiet, calm disposition made a very good impression. He was very kind and always ready to do anyone a favor. He is buried in Milwaukee.



**CONRAD HERMANN [HER-MEN],** Tertiary, who died at Crown Point in 1973, at age 74, after 38 years of religious life.

Conrad was the youngest of 14 children born into a Kansas farming family. Even as a young man, he was a very gentle person, quiet in everything he did. He took life at a slow pace, and was extremely patient in explaining things to others. He enjoyed the simple pleasures of life: farming, gardening, playing cards, eating popcorn, and photography.

He joined us as a Third Order Brother at age 36, and remained at St. Felix in Huntington for 37 years, tending the orchard and vineyard, and caring for the boilers.

As his health declined, Conrad was always ready to acknowledge his gratitude and admiration for those who took such good care of him.

Conrad made it a practice to meet monthly with the local minister to discuss any concerns he might have concerning the local fraternity. Once an issue was mentioned, Conrad would never bring the matter up again.

With smaller novitiate classes, it became necessary to move Conrad to Crown Point for the care he needed. It was there that he peacefully and quietly fell asleep in the Lord. Conrad is buried in Huntington.

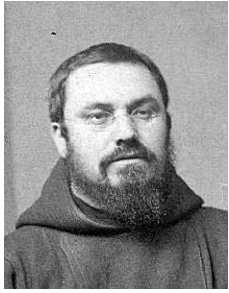
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- ∇. Eternal rest grant to him/her (them), O Lord.
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  - ℟. Amen.
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In charity, let us remember our deceased whose anniversary of death occurs tomorrow.

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MARTIN BÜCHEL [BICK-UL], who died in 1897 in New York City, at age 45, after 23 years of religious life and 15 years in the priesthood.

Martin was born in Germany. His family settled in Mt. Calvary about the same time that our founders settled there. He attended the parish school and was the first vocation from that area.

After ordination, Martin served for four years in Milwaukee, followed by 12 years in New York City, at Our Lady of Sorrows, St. Fidelis, and Our Lady of Angels.

Martin was humorous, witty and very entertaining. He was well-liked, and his sunny disposition was a great asset to the community.

He had a special gift for popular preaching and incorporated examples from everyday life to illustrate the Gospel whenever he could.

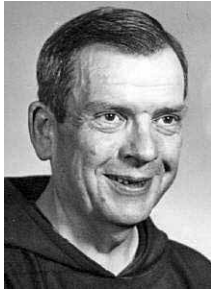
Heart failure cut short his days among us. Martin is buried in Yonkers.

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℟. Amen.
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**HERBERT MATHIEU [MATH-OU]**, who died at Huntington in 1970, at age 60, after 39 years of religious life and 32 years in the priesthood.

Born into a poor family in Flint, Michigan, Herbert was about seven years old when the family moved to Detroit. He attended a series of grade schools before enrolling in the Scholasticate at Garrison.

After novitiate, Herbert continued his seminary studies. Although he had many talents, book learning was not one of them. He once remarked, “From one year to another, from one exam to another, I never knew whether I was going to make it.”

Once ordained, Herbert served at St. Benedict Parish in Milwaukee for a total of 27 – non-consecutive – years.

Our ministry with African Americans in our Milwaukee parishes would never have been possible had it not been for Herbert who walked through the inner-city neighborhoods and became acquainted with everyone. He came to know everyone’s family history as a result of his concerned interest. His friendly, simple ways attracted people to him. He had a wonderful sense of humor.

Herbert’s final years were spent with the young Capuchins in the novitiate at Huntington where he is buried.

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MARTIN SCHECHTL [**SHECK-TUL**], who died in Egypt in 1935, at age 58, after 34 years of religious life and 27 years in the priesthood.

Martin was born in Bavaria. His uncle was a Capuchin missionary in India serving with Capuchin Bishop Anastase Hartmann and our first novice master, Anton Maria Gachet [**guh-SHAY**].

While working for the Benedictine Abbey at Metten, Martin made known his desire to become a missionary priest. Since he did not have the necessary funds to enter a German seminary, the Benedictines put him in contact with the diocesan priest, Fr. Stangl [**STANG-ul**], who often visited the Abbey, and who made it possible for men from poor families to go to America to join our Capuchin Province.

Martin emigrated to Calvary and entered the Scholasticate. There he applied himself to learn English well.

During his novitiate year, Martin contracted typhoid.

After ordination, he served at Our Lady of the Angels and at St. John's in New York City where he demonstrated a great deal of practical pastoral sense and zeal.

Martin was named Guardian and Pastor of St. Michael's in Brooklyn, where he continued to serve the Third Order Fraternity. The original buildings were old and inadequate, so Martin replaced them with a new church and friary. It was during this time that Martin also served one term on the Provincial Council.

After six years, Martin returned as pastor to St. John's, where he remodeled the interior of the church. During the second national Convention of the Third Order, he met the Bishop of Simla, India, and his missionary hopes were rekindled. Once he got to the Indian Mission, his only regret was that he had waited until age 51 to pursue his dream.

**continued ►**

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Martin spent eight years in India laboring with great zeal. Initially, he worked among English-speakers, the clergy and religious. Soon he mastered the Hindu language well enough to work among the native population at Sirsa where he established a number of mission stations and schools. At various times his work was hindered by anti-Christian prejudice on the part of the local Moslems.

Exhausted and physically run-down, Martin returned to the Province for a few months of rest. Despite serious health concerns, he decided to return to India and left on the steamer *New Orleans*. Illness forced him to disembark at Port Said [**sigh-EED**] to seek medical help, first at the local British hospital and then at the French hospital operated by the Sisters of Charity in Ismailia [**iz-ma-uh-LEE-uh**], not far from the Suez Canal.

Martin's condition had deteriorated so much that surgery was out of the question. After receiving the Anointing of the Sick, he lapsed into unconsciousness and passed to his eternal reward. The Sisters of Charity buried him in a plot of ground attached to the hospital and reserved for the Sisters. Martin was the first person to be buried there.

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℟. Amen.
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**WILLIAM PETERS, who died in Milwaukee in 1941, at age 46, after 25 years of religious life and 18 years in the priesthood.**

William was born in Johnsburg, Wisconsin, one of 17 children. After graduating from the parochial school, he enrolled at St. Lawrence College in Mt. Calvary.

Studies were difficult for him, but he applied himself and succeeded. Although he wasn't much of a conversationalist, he was a good listener and possessed a very even-tempered personality together with good, common sense.

After ordination, William was assigned to St. Elizabeth Parish in Milwaukee. He was so wholly devoted to pastoral life that within five years he was made Pastor. He faced the daunting challenge of reducing the parish debt during the years of financial hardship leading up to the Great Depression. To make matters worse, one source of revenue came to an end in 1930, when Messmer High School moved to its new site on Capitol Drive.

The parish was beginning to change. With the number of German-speaking parishioners on the decline, William reduced the number of German Masses.

William served at St. Joseph's in Appleton before being named Guardian and Pastor of St. Francis in Milwaukee. The old German neighborhood was changing. With an influx of other ethnic and racial groups, many of whom were non-Catholic, the parish seemed to have passed its peak. Financially, the Depression brought the parish "to its knees". William introduced the weekly envelope system, which improved the finances somewhat.

It was during William's time at St. Francis that the Parish Credit Union was organized. Since 87% of the people had no banking credit, the Credit Union gave them an opportunity to save their money, and in turn, was able to make loans at an interest rate far lower than commercial money-lenders. During the darkest hours of the Great Depression, the Credit Union proved its worth.

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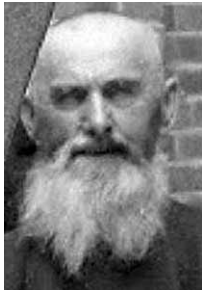
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In charity, let us remember our deceased whose anniversary of death occurs tomorrow.

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After three years at St. Francis, William was appointed Novice Master. The novices found in him the same gentleness that parishioners had experienced.

In his second year, however, William fell ill with a series of ailments from which he never recovered. He died at St. Anthony Hospital, and is buried at Mt. Calvary.



**FRANCIS DLASK [DUH-LASK], Third Order Brother, who died at Fort Wayne, Indiana, in 1945, at age 73, after 30 years of religious life.**

Frank was born at Middle Ridge, Wisconsin. Before joining us at age 44, he worked for many years on a farm. He was a reliable, hardworking farmhand. When he sought more out of life, his pastor introduced him to the Capuchins at Mt. Calvary.

After being received as a Third Order Brother, Francis was put to work on the farm which provided food not only for the friars but also for the College. Frank was successful both in terms of the quantity of the produce yielded, as well as its quality.

His produce always won top honors at the local County Fairs. When he entered the Milwaukee State Fair of 1927, he won premium awards in no less than 46 categories of culinary vegetables, all duly recorded in that year's Wisconsin Horticulture magazine.

When the farm at Mt. Calvary was discontinued, Frank was placed in charge of the garden at Marathon. For 10 years his efforts bore the same results as at Calvary. Frank also wrote a book on vegetable gardening, but it was never published.

Rheumatism ended his farming days, and Frank returned to Calvary for a few months, before heading to Huntington.

Stomach problems, which doctors later suspected to be cancer, landed Frank in the Fort Wayne hospital. Since his pain was only intermittent, doctors believed that his condition was not urgently serious. All of a sudden, however, his temperature spiked, he fell into a coma, and died.

Frank is buried at Huntington.

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℟. Amen.
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**FRANCIS MAY**, who died in San Antonio in 1903, at age 46, after 26 years of religious life and 19 years in the priesthood.

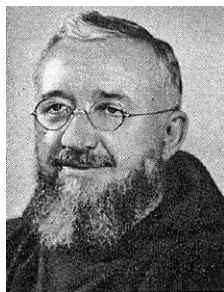
Francis came from Burlington, Iowa. He attended St. Lawrence College, and then entered the novitiate.

After ordination, he served at St. John's in New York City, Detroit, Brooklyn, and Yonkers where he was Guardian at Sacred Heart.

Francis was a very capable preacher, whose well-prepared sermons were enhanced by his stately figure. His joviality greatly endeared him to the other friars despite the practical jokes that he occasionally played on them.

Once, for instance, Francis was stationed with Pacificus Berlemann [**pa-SIF-fi-cus BUR-lay-mahn**] at St. John's. Pacificus detested flies and Francis knew that. One day, before going out on a sick call, Pacificus locked his door and windows to prevent the pests from entering. Francis caught a number of flies and patiently passed them into Pacificus' room through the keyhole. What a surprise Pacificus had when he opened his door and found a swarm of flies!

Francis suffered from kidney trouble and sought relief at a facility in San Antonio, Texas. It was there that he passed away. Francis is buried at Yonkers.



**JOSAPHAT MUESIG** [**M'YOU-sig**], who died at Appleton in 1951, at age 64, after 48 years of religious life, and 41 years in the priesthood.

Josaphat was born in Milwaukee and attended St. Francis Parish Grade School. He enrolled at St. Lawrence College in Mt. Calvary where he was a lively student who enjoyed his time there. After graduation, he entered the novitiate in Detroit.

His first assignment after ordination was to teach at Mt. Calvary. One year later, when Luke Rasch [**RAH-sh**] drowned in Wolf Lake, Josaphat

**continued** ➤

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  - ℟. Amen.

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**In charity, let us remember our deceased whose anniversary of death occurs tomorrow.**

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succeeded him as Pastor of the Parish at St. Joe, while continuing to teach at Calvary. During his term as Pastor, Josaphat installed storm windows, a new furnace and new pews in the church.

Three years later, Josaphat was assigned to St. Joseph's Parish in Appleton. He endeared himself in a special way to the young people, particularly through his jovial and energetic spirit. After five years, he was made Pastor of the parish. He sparked a fund-raising drive for the new St. Elizabeth Hospital, made the school more energy-efficient, and replaced the floor in the church. Josaphat quickly gained a reputation as someone who could substantially reduce the debt.

After nine years, he was sent to Yonkers, where, after one year, he was appointed Pastor. During his term, the Scholasticate was moved to Garrison and its former residence was bought by the parish and transformed into Sacred Heart High School.

Three years later, Josaphat was transferred to his home parish, St. Francis in Milwaukee. Together with the pastor, Pius Stutzer, Josaphat built the Parish Social Center. When he became Pastor three years later, he did much to reduce the debt.

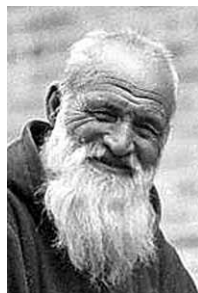
His next field of endeavor was Montana where Josaphat served for three years at Busby and Lame Deer, followed by three years at Broadus and in Powder River County.

Josaphat was then sent as Pastor to St. Elizabeth's in Milwaukee in order to break the back of indebtedness. He built the south exit to the church, brought air conditioners and loud speakers into the church, and had the heating systems connected to a central heating plant. He built a new sacristy and a new garage. With the disappearance of parishioners who only understood German, Josaphat decided that all sermons would be in English. His work with the St. Vincent de Paul Society is especially noteworthy.

Next he became Pastor of Holy Cross Parish in Mt. Calvary. He had the church road widened, the parking space in front of the church blacktopped, and saw to countless other details. He organized the centennial celebration of the Parish at Mt. Calvary and saw them to completion before heading to his next and final assignment at St. Joe's in Appleton.

It was there that Josaphat died of a heart attack on Ash Wednesday immediately after celebrating Eucharist. He is buried in Milwaukee.

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℟. Amen.
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**ATHANASIUS KOPLITZ [ATH-UH-NAY-SHUS KOH-PLITZ],** who died at Mt. Calvary in 1939, at age 83, after 51 years of religious life and 45 years in the priesthood.

Athanasius was born at Black Wolf, Wisconsin, and the family later moved to Oshkosh. His mother died when he was only six years old. Like so many others during those pioneer days, he had to go to work at an early age to help provide for the family. As a consequence, his formal schooling was a bit defective.

At age 26 he entered St. Lawrence College, and was among the first three students to enter the Scholasticate there.

In those days, prior to receiving full priestly faculties, the priest was required to pass a qualifying exam. Until he did, he was a simplex priest with limited faculties. After Athanasius was ordained, a priest was urgently needed at Holy Cross in Wauwatosa, so his exam was postponed for a year. At the end of the year, he was transferred to Mt. Calvary where he remained for the rest of his life.

On weekdays, he celebrated Mass for the Agnesian Sisters in Fond du Lac. When the Sisters opened St. Agnes Hospital, Athanasius was assigned there. Since he had not taken the qualifying exam, his faculty for hearing confessions was still limited to cases in which the person was dying and no other priest was available. Athanasius continued studying to prepare himself to take the exam. In the meantime, however, he suffered a serious nervous breakdown.

After spending some time in rehabilitation with the Alexian Brothers at Oshkosh, the doctors recommended outdoor activity. Athanasius was assigned to take care of the greenhouse, the flower beds, the woods and the orchard. He also took care of the collecting tours each Fall until they were discontinued about 1918. During the early years he also preached occasionally at some afternoon services. It was probably due to the outdoor exercise that he reached such a ripe old age.

After contracting pneumonia, Athanasius passed away quickly and peacefully, as if falling asleep. He is buried at Mt. Calvary.

**continued ►**

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In charity, let us remember our deceased whose anniversary of death occurs tomorrow.

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NORMA WHITMAN, an Affiliate of the Province, who died on this day in 1977.

Norma Whitman was affiliated to the Province on March 21, 1963, after 32 years of faithful service as organist at St. Bonaventure's in Detroit.

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℟. Amen.
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CONSTANTINE LEYENDECKERS [**LION-DECKERS**], who died in New York City in 1945, at age 74, after 49 years of religious life and 42 years in the priesthood.

Constantine was grew up in Germany, a cobbler by trade. Although he desired to become a priest from an early age, his family could not afford to send him to the seminary. He belonged to the Kolping Society, and in all likelihood, a priest member of the Society arranged for him to come to America and join the Capuchins.

The 21-year-old spent a year at St. Lawrence College in Mt. Calvary, entered the Scholasticate, and then went to Detroit for novitiate.

Ordained to the priesthood, Constantine was the first priest to celebrate a First Mass at St. Elizabeth's Parish in Milwaukee.

His first assignment was to St. Francis Parish in Milwaukee, where he was liked for his pastoral care of the sick. After one year, Constantine was named Director of the German-speaking Third Order. Caring for the sick and ministry to the Secular Franciscans would be constants throughout the remainder of his life.

Constantine also served at Our Lady of the Angels Parish and at Our Lady of Sorrows Parish in New York. He helped to rectify numerous irregular marriages and, especially during the period of the Great Depression, worked tirelessly on behalf of the poor.

As he aged, Constantine continued to be constantly on the go. He dreaded the thought of retirement, and kept up a pretense of being physically fit in order to avoid it. He increased his workload and resented it if others tried to take care of one of his jobs. When he finally submitted to a physical exam, doctors found various health concerns, and recommended a short stay in the hospital for rest. That evening, Constantine died of an embolism [**EM-bow-lism**]. He is buried at Yonkers.

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**BENEDICT FREY [FRY]**, who died at Mt. Calvary in 1886, at age 24, after one year of religious life.

Born in West Prussia, Benedict came to us as a talented artist and musician. He was admired for his piety and even temper.

Shortly after making first profession, Benedict contracted tuberculosis and died. He is buried at Mt. Calvary.



**PETER ERNSDORFF [EARNNS-DORF]**, who died in Milwaukee in 1910, at age 59, after 40 years of religious life and 34 years in the priesthood.

Peter was born in Luxemburg. When he was four years old, his family emigrated to America and settled in Port Washington, Wisconsin. When Peter was 15, the family moved to Dubuque, Iowa.

Peter was enrolled at St. Lawrence College at Mt. Calvary and witnessed the Great Fire of 1868. Once the founders decided to remain at Calvary and re-build, Peter was in the first novice class, along with five others.

After ordination he was assigned to Mt. Calvary as Professor and as Prefect of Discipline. He was popular among the students because of his cheerfulness and ability.

After seven years he was transferred to parish work, first at St. Joe's in Appleton, then at Our Lady of Sorrows in New York City and at Sacred Heart in Yonkers before returning to first love, teaching at Calvary.

The Provincial Chapter of 1900 transferred Peter to St. Francis in Milwaukee where he frequently took help-outs in area parishes and served as confessor to the laity, to religious congregations of Sisters and to priests. The diocesan clergy loved him on account of his sympathetic kindness and patience.

Peter died and was buried in Milwaukee.

**continued ►**

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  - ℟. Amen.
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**FLORIAN RUSKAMP**, who died in Appleton in the year 2000, at age 82, after 62 years of religious life, and 54 years in the priesthood.

Florian spent 51 years as a missionary in Nicaragua. Immediately after he completed his seminary training, he was sent to the Bluefields Mission and, over the years, served at Rama [**RAH-ma**], Puerto Cabezas [**pu-EAR-to cah-BEH-sas**] and Managua [**man-AH-gwa**]. He also served the Mission as Superior Regular and joined the Vice Province of Central America and Panama.

When Florian returned from the mission, he was formally re-instated as a member of the Province of St. Joseph and lived at St. Anthony's in Marathon. He later moved to Appleton where he passed away.

Florian had a gentle presence which was deeply felt by others. He searched out those who were experiencing difficulties or were hurting, and had a way of encouraging them that was special. He made a difference in the lives of those he touched. He believed in the power of the Holy Spirit. Long before it was popular, Florian believed in the laity and in the role of lay people in the Church, shared the Bible, developed base Christian communities, and the ideals of fraternity over those of ministry.

Florian is buried at Mt. Calvary.

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**DR. MICHAEL REYNOLDS, an Affiliate of the Province.**

Dr. Reynolds was the house doctor for the friars in Brooklyn when he was affiliated to the Province on February 12, 1936. The date of his death is unknown.

**PATRICK BYRNES, an Affiliate of the Province, who died on this day in 1923.**

Mr. Byrnes collected more than 13,000 stipends and other alms for St. Fidelis Friary in New York City. He was affiliated to the Province on January 22, 1922.

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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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In charity, let us remember our deceased whose anniversary of death occurs tomorrow.

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CASIMIR LUTFRING [LOOT-FRING], who died in Brooklyn in 1912, at age 56, after 38 years of religious life and 30 years in the priesthood.

Casimir was born in Milwaukee. Although members of St. Joseph Parish, his parents were great benefactors of St. Francis Monastery. After completing his course of studies at St. Lawrence College, Casimir entered the Order.

From his earliest days, he possessed an exuberant cheerfulness and contagious humor. After ordination, he was assigned to St. Joseph's in Appleton where he served as secretary to the provincial and local superior, Bonaventure Frey [FRY]. One year later, when the Chapter transferred all the Appleton friars, the report spread that the only member of the former community to remain was the cat in the kitchen.

Casimir was then assigned to Our Lady of Sorrows in New York City where he was popular with the youth, assisted the Third Order, and instructed numerous converts.

Bonaventure Frey [FRY] held Casimir in such high regard that when Bonaventure was asked to organize Sacred Heart Parish in Yonkers, he asked to have Casimir as his assistant.

Later, as Guardian of St. Bonaventure's in Detroit, Casimir had charge of the little mission parish of Wyandotte [WHY-en-dot]. During his six-year term, he improved our relationship with the diocesan clergy, and insisted on the rights of the Monastery when a neighboring pastor tried to have our public chapel closed on Sundays.

Casimir's final assignment was as Pastor of St. Michael's in Brooklyn, during which time he also served on the Mission Band with great success.

While lying in bed comatose, Casimir made the sign of the cross and died peacefully. He is buried at Yonkers.

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  - ℟. Amen.
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**FRANCIS LECHNER [LECK-NER]**, Third Order brother, who died at Mt. Calvary in 1916, at age 91, after 33 years of religious life.

At thirty years of age, Francis, a farmer, left his native Bavaria for Wisconsin. Almost thirty years later, he joined the Province as a Tertiary and served for thirty-three years at Mt. Calvary.

He washed dishes in the College and in the Monastery, swept floors and conscientiously attended to the oil lamps. He was virtuously silent, but always returned a greeting with a warm smile. He was greatly loved and admired by friars and students alike for his saintly simplicity and edifying example.

Francis is buried at Mt. Calvary.



**ENGELBERT ROSENMEIER [ROSE-EN-MY-ER]**, who died in Milwaukee in 1943, at age 61, after 42 years of religious life and 35 years in the priesthood.

Born on a farm in Bavaria, the 15-year-old Engelbert emigrated to America, accompanied by his sister who joined the Agnesians. After completing his time at St. Lawrence College and the Scholasticate, he entered the novitiate in Detroit. During his clericate years, Engelbert learned the art of printing and practiced that trade as a secondary task during many of his assignments.

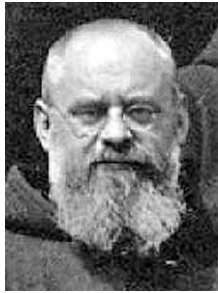
After ordination, Engelbert was assigned to St. Francis Parish in Milwaukee. Severe rheumatism [ROO-ma-tism] necessitated a number of transfers, including a protracted stay with the Capuchins at Hays, Kansas, where he set up a printery and taught some of the friars at Hays the art of printing.

Engelbert also served at Holy Cross Parish in Mt. Calvary, at the nearby mission parish of St. Peter, at St. Joe's in Appleton, at St. Fidelis in New York City, and at Marathon where, among other tasks, he served as bookbinder.

When doctors discovered cancer of the stomach, he was sent to Milwaukee for treatment, but there was no hope for recovery. Engelbert died in Milwaukee and is buried at Mt. Calvary.

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  - ℟. Amen.



**BASIL GUMMERMANN**, who died at Wausau, Wisconsin, in 1960, at age 83, after 64 years of religious life and 57 years in the priesthood.

Basil's vocation was due partly to the fact that he was a cousin of Capuchin Gaudentius [gou-DEN-shus] Rossmann and partly due to the recruiting activities of the Province's greatest vocation promoter in Bavaria, Fr. Stangl [STANG-ul], who arranged for the 14-year-old to enter St. Lawrence College in Mt. Calvary. Basil's large family emigrated to America soon afterward.

Following ordination, Basil was assigned to St. Joseph Parish in Appleton. His administrative skills quickly became apparent, and Basil was entrusted with a number of important assignments.

His most enduring mark was made, however, as lover and promoter of the Secular Franciscans. Besides serving local Fraternities, Basil also served as Provincial Commissary for the Third Order. He wrote prolifically for the *Seraphic Chronicle* as well as for the *Franciscan Herald and Forum*. He became the first Capuchin to serve on the National Board of the Federated Provinces of the Third Order, and his most noteworthy contribution to the Third Order was his book, *The Handbook of the Third Order Secular of St. Francis of Assisi*.

Over the course of his lifetime, Basil served in many of our parishes, taught at Mt. Calvary, gave spiritual conferences to Sisters, was moderator of the Catholic Students Mission Crusade, and for the last 24 years of his life, taught at our major seminary in Marathon, where he passed on to new generations of friars a sincere love and respect for the Secular Franciscan Order.

Basil had a good sense of humor and loved being the first one with any news scoop. The Appleton newspaper reporter and renowned author, Edna Ferber, wrote about Basil's "nose for news" in her book entitled, *A Peculiar Treasure*.

While suffering a bout of the flu, Basil was admitted to St. Mary's Hospital in Wausau where he passed peacefully to his eternal reward. He is buried at Marathon.

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✠. Amen.

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**VALENTINE EDERER, Third Order brother, who died at Mt. Calvary in 1902, the day after his 67<sup>th</sup> birthday, after 9 years of religious life.**

Valentine was born in Bavaria and emigrated to America at age 25. He joined the Province as a Tertiary Brother at age 58 and served faithfully at Mt. Calvary for nine years. He is buried at Mt. Calvary.



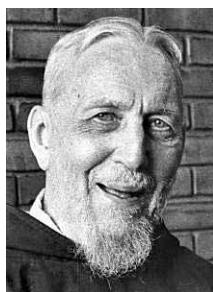
**VITALIS OSZUSZKY [OH-SUS-SKI], who died at Mt. Calvary in 1967, at age 83, after 54 years of religious life.**

Vitalis was born in what is now Slovakia. He came to America when he was 20 years old. He lived for a time in Pennsylvania, Maryland and Wisconsin — wherever he could find work. He was living in Milwaukee and working for the railroad with his brother-in-law when he decided to join the Province, at age 27.

For the next 54 years, Vitalis was stationed in most of our friaries, both in the East and in the Mid-west. He served in whatever capacity was needed, including cook, janitor, porter, maintenance person and sacristan.

For the last three years of his life, he was confined to the infirmary at Mt. Calvary. It was there that he died just before midnight.

A very simple soul who spoke little, Vitalis had a great devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary.



**MARION ROESSLER [RES-LER], who died at Mt. Calvary in 1991, at age 86, after 66 years of religious life and 60 years in the priesthood.**

Marion was born in Jefferson, Wisconsin. Encouraged by his pastor, he enrolled at St. Lawrence College, and after graduation, entered the novitiate in Detroit.

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  - ✠. Amen.
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After ordination, Marion was assigned to Detroit where he served as librarian, vocation promoter, and instructor of the lay brothers. When difficulties arose between some of the Third Order members and Mr. Ray McDonough [**mick-DUN-uh**], Marion took over the management of the Soup Kitchen. He must have made a very good impression on the friars because just five years after ordination he was appointed Guardian of St. Bonaventure's, and as such, became the Director of the Soup Kitchen. When the Capuchin Charity Guild was formed, Marion became its spiritual director.

After Detroit, Marion spent one term as Guardian in Huntington, where he also served as Director of the Third Order and Director of the Seraphic Mass Association. After three years, the Chapter again appointed him to be Guardian in Detroit.

During his second term in Detroit, in 1943, the remains of the friars buried in Mt. Elliott Cemetery were transferred to the new monastery cemetery, the accounts of the Soup Kitchen were separated from those of the monastery, and paying bills by cheque, rather than cash, became the standard.

After his term as a local minister ended, Marion remained in Detroit for one year as Director of the Third Order, then spent a year in Appleton in the same capacity, before being sent to Ashland, Montana. With the division of the Province in 1952, the superior of the mission was appointed a Definitor of St. Mary's Province, and Marion was named local minister and pastor of St. Labre's.

During his 10-year service in Montana, Marion enlarged the school curriculum to include vocational training and extracurricular activities. He also inaugurated the fund drive to finance the school, since government funding was cut off in the 1940s. As superintendent of the St. Labre School, he urged teachers to treat their pupils as the Cheyenne treated their children — with respect for their individuality. When a new school complex was built in 1967, it was dedicated to Marion in appreciation of his love and self-sacrificing devotion to the Cheyenne.

Recognizing the richness of Cheyenne culture, Marion took photographic slides of Indian life and made tape recordings of old Indian legends, history,

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music, songs and stories. Unfortunately, much of his work was lost or damaged in the flood of 1978.

Marion's health had always been an issue. His asthma, emphysema and lung problems continued to worsen and were complicated by an allergy to all types of dust. In search of relief, he moved to Baraga, then to Marathon, and finally to Mt. Calvary. For a period, he became a virtual recluse.

His own seclusion gave rise to a new ministry to the sick and homebound — “victim souls”, as he referred to them. He became chaplain of the Catholic Union of the Sick in America, and his correspondence with those who sought his spiritual direction increased tremendously.

Reflecting on his life, Marion wrote: “I offer up to God any praise that is ever given to me. I had a difficult time getting through the major seminary because of my inability to learn much Latin. All of our textbooks were in Latin. Our theology prof, Paschal Ahearn [A-hern] came to my defense. He told the other profs that I knew my theology, I just did not know Latin. I was only ordained five years when I was made Guardian in Detroit. I was helped to keep humble by the old German axiom of a good Superior: “Not too pious, not too healthy, and a little dumb.”

Marion passed away at Mt. Calvary where he is also buried.

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✠. Amen.
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February 15

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In charity, let us remember our deceased whose anniversary of death occurs tomorrow.

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**RAY McDONOUGH, an Affiliate of the Province, who died on this day in 1960.**

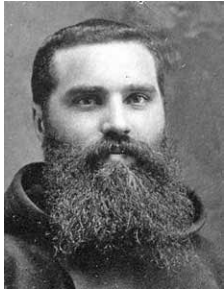
For services rendered to St. Bonaventure Friary, especially in connection with the Soup Kitchen, Ray McDonough was affiliated to the Province on December 17, 1933.

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**The Servant of God, STEPHEN ECKERT [EK-ERT], who died in Milwaukee in 1923, at age 53, after 31 years of religious life and 26 years in the priesthood.**

Stephen was born near Dublin, Ontario, Canada. His high school years were spent at St. Jerome's College, where he joined the Third Order of St. Francis. After meeting two Capuchins who were preaching a Mission at the College, Stephen made a visit to St. Bonaventure's in Detroit, and soon after, decided to enter the Capuchins.

Following ordination, Stephen spent the next 17 years ministering in parishes and preaching missions. An extraordinary preacher, filled with missionary zeal, he touched the lives of countless people, both Catholic and non-Catholic.

For years Stephen had harbored a desire to be a circuit preacher and missionary among African Americans in the Deep South. A visit to Mother Drexel's Sisters bolstered his hopes and, in 1904, he made known his desire to the provincial minister. His hopes for establishing a mission in the Deep South, however, were abandoned due to a lack of support.

In 1908, Black Catholic evangelist, Captain Lincoln Valle [valley] and his wife, Julia, came to Milwaukee from Chicago as lay apostles for the express purpose of establishing a Black Catholic community. Their efforts resulted in the creation of St. Benedict the Moor Mission which, in 1911, was entrusted to the care of the Capuchins. Two years later, Stephen was assigned as the Mission's first resident pastor.

Under his leadership there was a marked increase in the number of African American converts, additional properties were bought, and the facilities and staffs were enlarged. As part of the Mission's fund-raising efforts, the children of the Mission stormed heaven with prayers for the intentions of the benefactors. These "Storm Novenas" had originated in Austria and consisted of nine consecutive visits to the Blessed Sacrament during a single day. After announcing the petitions of the benefactors, the participants knelt with outstretched arms while praying the Lord's Prayer, six Hail Mary's and six Doxologies.

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For his part, Stephen frequently engaged in preaching engagements and retreats in an effort to raise funds. It was during one such engagement that he came down with pleurisy and pneumonia. After spending three weeks in the hospital, he passed to his eternal reward. Initially he was buried in the Milwaukee cemetery, but later his remains were re-interred at St. Benedict's.

Through his preaching, writings and interactions, Stephen gained a reputation for holiness. His dedication to African Americans earned him recognition as their "Apostle". The formal cause for his beatification was begun in 1952 and ended in 1959. There has been no recent movement in his cause.



**XAVIER [ZAY-VIER] MARQUETTE, who died in Detroit in 1974, at age 74, after 50 years of religious life and 43 years in the priesthood.**

Xavier was born in Detroit and adopted into the Marquette Family. After graduating from high school, he attended the College of Engineering of the University of Detroit.

After ordination, Xavier had numerous, short-term assignments. On the one hand, he was a good priest and was always warm toward the other friars. On the other hand, he was always unsettled and never seemed to be at peace living in community.

Perhaps hoping to find his niche, Xavier volunteered for the Guam Mission. Within a few years, however, the Imperial Japanese Forces captured Guam. The American missionaries, including Xavier, were taken as prisoners of war and spent three years in a concentration camp in Japan. When World War II ended, Xavier returned to the States, his physical and psychological health even more impaired.

For the last 29 years of his life, Xavier was in constant search of a benevolent bishop who would accept him into his diocese. He went through a series of willing bishops, but the end result was always the same. Finally, he received permission to remain a Capuchin and to live apart from the community.

Xavier suffered greatly during his lifetime. He died in Detroit and is buried in our cemetery there. Perhaps death brought him the peace he never knew on earth.

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DAMASUS [DAM-A-SUS] WICKLAND, who died at Huntington in 1954, at age 89, after 56 years of religious life and 49 years in the priesthood.

Damasus was born in Pittsburgh. After finishing his schooling, he worked in a store, and later in the steel mills. He experienced great tragedy as a young man when his girlfriend, whom he hoped to marry, was beaten to death.

At age 28, Damasus sought direction for his life. His pastor, who happened to be a Calvary alumnus, mentioned the possibility of becoming a religious priest. Soon afterward, Damasus was on his way to Mt. Calvary.

After spending his year of novitiate in Detroit, Damasus began the normal course of seminary studies in Milwaukee. He had great difficulty learning Latin, and since all the classes were taught in Latin, his grades suffered. The superiors allowed him to be ordained to the priesthood, but only as a simplex priest, with no faculties to preach or hear confessions.

For most of his religious life, Damasus served as porter in various friaries. He edified all by his kindness, patience and sense of humor.

During the last six years of his life, blindness gradually halted most of his activities. Despite these limitations to his freedom, Damasus had an unflinching cheerfulness.

After experiencing a fall, Damasus was bedridden, in a semi-conscious state. His condition continued to deteriorate. As the prayers for the dying were being recited at his bedside, and while the choir bell was calling the friars to prayer, Damasus peacefully breathed his last.

He is buried in Huntington.

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  - ℟. Amen.
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**GREGORY VAN DER BECKEN, who died at Crown Point, Indiana, in 1974, at age 79, after 51 years of religious life and 44 years in the priesthood.**

Gregory was born in Port Huron, Michigan. When he was just two and a half years old, his family moved to Belgium where he attended a school run by the Christian Brothers. In ninth grade he spoke with one of the Brothers about his desire to become a priest. Because one of Gregory's eyes was deformed, the Brother told him that it was an impediment that would exclude him from the priesthood. Disillusioned, he quit school and began working in a stained glass art studio.

Following the death of his mother, the family moved to Detroit where Gregory joined the mens choir of St. Joseph Parish. The 16-year-old youth worked by day and studied music by night. He considered becoming a professional musician, but the lifestyle did not appeal to him.

In the house where he was boarding, there was a photograph of a priest whose left eye was somewhat deformed. He asked his landlady about this, and discovered that the priest was a former pastor of St. Joseph's Parish and that she was the priest's sister. She suggested that Gregory speak with Charles Strahberger at the Capuchin monastery. Five months later, Gregory joined the Capuchins.

Gregory had a number of assignments over his lifetime, including assistant novice master, associate pastor, pastor of Green Lake, Wisconsin, confessor for priests and novices, professor at Calvary, spiritual director and rector at Glencllyffe and working in the front offices of various friaries. Even in retirement, just two weeks before his death, Gregory offered his services to the province as a translator for the French, Flemish and Dutch languages.

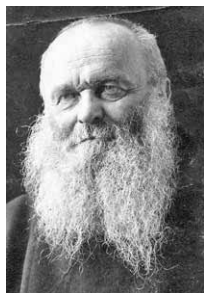
Aware of the impact of others on his life, Gregory often expressed his gratitude for past, present and future favors. He is buried in Huntington.

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**ANTHONY ROTTENSTEINER [ROTE-IN-SHTY-NER]**, who died in Milwaukee in 1903, at age 72, after 36 years of religious life and 45 years in the priesthood.

Born and raised in Bavaria, Anthony's father owned a small farm and also worked as the village cobbler. Anthony was an excellent student, receiving the highest grades during his high school years, as well as at the University of Munich where he studied philosophy and law, and at the seminary during his theological studies. He was ordained for the Diocese of Augsburg.

In 1861, he left Bavaria to minister to German-speaking Catholics in America. He served in the Diocese of Pittsburgh and was stationed at Altoona. Five years later, after corresponding with Francis Haas, Anthony joined the Calvary Foundation.

Anthony was a godsend to the nine-year-old struggling Capuchin community. Until his entrance, Francis Haas had single-handedly shouldered the education of our Capuchin seminarians, besides being pastor and superior of the foundation. So it was, that while still a novice, Anthony, with his solid educational background, was appointed Lector of the clerics.

The importance of his future role in the Province was pre-figured during his novitiate year. After Anthony had taken over the education of our students, Francis Haas fell gravely ill. Aware of the seriousness of his condition, Francis asked Anthony if he intended to remain with the Capuchins. Anthony unhesitatingly gave his assurance, and Francis responded, "Then I die willingly, because I know that the future is secure!"

Anthony remained at Calvary for three years, and followed the House of Studies when it moved to St. Francis in Milwaukee in 1869. After 10 years there, Anthony was named Guardian of St. Francis.

After one term, he was appointed Local Minister at Mt. Calvary. Under his leadership the reckless destruction of the woodland on the Hill was stopped, several hundred trees were planted, and outdoor Stations of the Cross were erected on the western slope of the old cemetery.

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Anthony also served on the leadership Council during the nine years of our existence as a General Commissary and then as a Custody. After becoming a Province, he served five terms on the Provincial Council, and when Francis Haas was called to Rome to become General Definitor, Anthony served one term as Provincial Minister.

Due to a shortage of priests, there were ever-increasing demands placed on the priests for external ministry. As Provincial Minister, Anthony insisted on the priority of fraternity over ministry.

Anthony organized the Provincial Archives and established the role of the Provincial Secretary, which was generally a side occupation of the Master of Novices.

After completing his term as Provincial Minister, the Chapter appointed him as Master of Clerics, which position he held until his death.

Anthony taught his last class on February 12<sup>th</sup>. He was suffering from pneumonia and kidney failure. Over the course of the next few days his health deteriorated rapidly. After being anointed, he was visited by the Provincial Minister, Lawrence Vorwerk [FOR-verk] and by Archbishop Katzer of Milwaukee. The most memorable farewell, however, took place when his clerics assembled at his bedside. He, as well as they, were too moved to say anything. Tears were the only token of what the parting meant to him and them. All kissed the hand which he now raised for the last time to bestow on them his blessing. The next day, Anthony passed to his eternal reward and was buried at Mt. Calvary.



**HYACINTH SCHOMMER [SHOM-MER], who died in New York City in 1918, at age 73, after 45 years of religious life and 37 years in the priesthood.**

Hyacinth was born in Germany. When he was about 10 years old, his family came to America.

Hyacinth spent most of his religious life in our Eastern friaries: St. Fidelis, Our Lady of Sorrows, and Our Lady of Angels in New York City, and at St.

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Michael's in Brooklyn. He served as local minister for one term at Fort Lee, New Jersey and for two non-consecutive terms at Wauwatosa, Wisconsin.

Hyacinth's special gift was in preaching and ministering to the Secular Franciscans. He showed great pastoral care for the sick, the suffering, and non-practicing Catholics. He was loved by parishioners and friars alike, for his patience and cheerfulness.

Hyacinth died in New York and was buried at Yonkers.



**CELESTINE [CEL-IS-TIN] BITTLE, who died in Milwaukee in 1960, at age 75, after 57 years of religious life and 50 years in the priesthood.**

After a number of moves, the Bittle Family settled in Milwaukee where they were parishioners, first of St. Francis Parish, and later, of St. Elizabeth's. Celestine graduated from the parish school at St. Francis. His younger brother, Berchmans, also became a Capuchin.

Encouraged in his vocation by Otto Jeron, Celestine pursued the classical course at St. Lawrence College, and afterwards entered the novitiate at Detroit.

His first nine years after ordination were spent teaching philosophy at Mt. Calvary. When the United States entered the First World War, Celestine became a chaplain in the Armed Forces. Stationed in France, his knowledge of German allowed him to serve the pastoral needs not only of the American troops, but also of the German prisoners of war.

After his discharge from the Army, Celestine ministered at St. Michael's in Brooklyn for five years. When St. Elizabeth's Parish in Milwaukee needed a new school, Celestine was named pastor and entrusted with the project. Once the school was built, he offered the former school building as the site of a new diocesan high school, which would become Messmer High School. Celestine was its first principal.

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Impaired health required his transfer to St. Joseph's in Appleton where Celestine began a career as an author. His most celebrated book is the authoritative history of our Province entitled, "A Romance of Lady Poverty". Besides his biographical account of his war years, Celestine also wrote a series on philosophy.

Celestine took a great personal interest in people. Optimistic by nature, he looked for the bright side of things. His sense of humor was very noticeable and he used it to make people, especially guests, feel welcome.

Celestine was also actively involved in the American Legion, serving both as state and national chaplain.

The Bittle brothers enjoyed a very close relationship. They did many things together. When Berchmans fell ill, Celestine took care of him, and vice versa. Berchman's death left Celestine in shock.

About a year later, Celestine was diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease which gradually affected all his senses. When death appeared to be imminent, he was anointed and later slipped into a coma. Celestine was surrounded by the friars of St. Benedict's when he peacefully fell asleep in the Lord. He is buried in Milwaukee.

**DR. STEPHEN LEO, an Affiliate of the Province, who died on this day in 1926.**

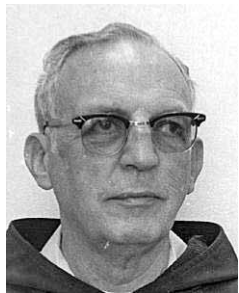
Dr. Leo was born in Saratoga, New York in 1862. He became a medical resident in Yonkers in 1895 and was connected with St. John's Hospital. He served as physician for the parochial schools of Yonkers and as house doctor for the friars of Sacred Heart, Yonkers. He was affiliated to the Province on November 1, 1925.

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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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In charity, let us remember our deceased whose anniversary of death occurs tomorrow.

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LOUIS SONNTAG [SAHN-TAG], who died in Fond du Lac in the year 2000, at age 84, after 65 years of religious life and 57 years in the priesthood.

Louis was born in Sheboygan, Wisconsin, the son of that city's first plumber. After graduating from Holy Name Grade School, he attended St. Lawrence High School in Mt. Calvary.

When he entered the novitiate he was given the religious name, Nathaniel, by which he was known for the next 39 years.

Nathaniel was entrusted with various offices in the Province. After earning his Masters Degree in Philosophy from Notre Dame University and a Doctorate in Canon Law from the Catholic University of America, he taught Canon Law and Moral Theology at Marathon for five years, and philosophy for seven years at Huntington, followed by two years at Crown Point. For six of his teaching years he also served as Director of Clerics.

While studying at Notre Dame, Louis' strong physical features caught the eye of an aspiring student-artist. Louis was immortalized in bronze by the now renowned sculptor, Richard Navin.

Louis also served the Secular Franciscan Order on the local level, and eventually became the Third Order Commissary for the Secular Franciscans of the United States and Canada.

He also founded the St. Clare Mission Band in Fort Wayne, similar in mission and ministry to the Eucharistic Mission Band in Detroit.

Louis served in parishes, including St. Joseph's in Appleton where he was pastor and guardian for one term, but most of his life was spent in provincial administration. He served as provincial secretary, procurator and archivist, and has the distinction of being the first provincial treasurer to bring the Province totally out of debt.

At 58 years of age, Nathaniel volunteered for the foreign missions. He took the occasion to return to his baptismal name, Louis, and served in Nicaragua for 21 years, 17 of which were as chancellor and the bishop's secretary. In 1982, he formally joined the General Vice Province of Central America.

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## February 22 (*continued...*)

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*In charity, let us remember our deceased whose anniversary of death occurs tomorrow.*

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Louis returned to the States and re-joined the Province after suffering a heart attack. In time, difficient blood circulation in his legs required him to use a wheelchair. After suffering a stroke, he moved to St. Francis Home in Fond du Lac. It was there that he passed away.

Louis is buried at Mt. Calvary.

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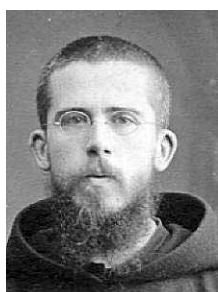
**BRUNO ALFERS**, who died in Yonkers in 1916, at age 50, after 24 years of religious life and 17 years in the priesthood.

Bruno was born in Germany and came to America at age 21 to study at St. Lawrence College. Two years later, he entered the scholasticate at Mt. Calvary, followed by novitiate in Detroit.

Following ordination, Bruno was assigned to St. John the Baptist Parish in New York City. Five years later, the Provincial Chapter appointed him as associate pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Yonkers, where he served for 12 years, until his death.

Bruno was well-liked. His sociability created a pleasant and peaceful atmosphere. He was esteemed as a confessor, and zealously reached out to non-practicing Catholics, many of whom returned to the practice of their faith through his efforts.

For the last three years of his life, Bruno suffered patiently from kidney disease. He died and was buried at Yonkers.



**COLUMBAN SCHAEFFNER [SHAFE-NER]**, who died in Detroit in 1920, at age 35, after 15 years of religious life and 8 years in the priesthood.

Columban was born in Brooklyn. After graduating from St. Lawrence College, he entered the novitiate.

Following ordination, Columban was assigned to Detroit. Within six months, he received a temporary assignment at St. Michael's in Brooklyn before returning to Detroit.

He served at St. Elizabeth's in Milwaukee briefly, before being named professor and librarian at our House of Studies at St. Francis in Milwaukee and later at Holy Cross in Wauwatosa.

Columban returned to St. Bonaventure's in Detroit as assistant novice master. Within eight months he came down with double pneumonia and passed away quickly.

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Columban had a quiet, pensive disposition. Always gentle, none knew him but to love him. Genuine piety and true zeal characterized his short life. His sudden death deprived the Province of a friar who showed great promise. Columban is buried in Detroit.



ROMUALD JOOS [**ROM-wald JUICE**], who died at Appleton in 1924, at age 23, after 4 years of religious life.

The Joos Family belonged to Queen of Angels Parish in Harlem. Two of the sons became Capuchins, Romuald, and his younger brother, Justin.

During his seminary years, Romuald became ill with what was thought to be a very treatable case of hyperthyroidism [**hyper-THIGH-royd-ism**]. As his condition worsened, doctors determined that he was actually afflicted with a terminal case of tuberculosis of the larynx. The condition, which made it increasingly difficult for him to eat or swallow, caused him intense pain, and yet he never complained.

Throughout his long ordeal, Romuald demonstrated a childlike confidence in prayer. He died a very edifying death. On his final day, fully conscious, he was anointed and given Communion. Within a few minutes, he laid his head to one side and quietly surrendered himself to the Creator.

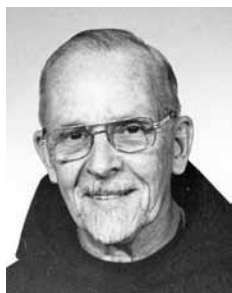
Romuald is buried at Appleton.

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**PAUL TOSCHIK [TOSH-ICK]**, who died on Guam in 1989, at age 82, after 59 years of religious life and 54 years in the priesthood.

Paul was born in Milwaukee. The family originally belonged to St. Boniface Parish, but later joined St. Elizabeth's where Paul graduated from grade school. He spent his high school and college years at St. Francis Seminary in Milwaukee, but before entering into theology, he joined the Order. His younger brother, Cyrus, also became a Capuchin.

Paul was a conscientious religious and a very prayerful person, a model of good Capuchin living. After ordination, he was assigned to Huntington as assistant novice master. The assignment lasted only one year when he was asked to go to St. Michael's in Brooklyn as assistant pastor. Again, after a year, he was transferred to St. Joe's Parish in Appleton where he remained for eight years and was very successful working with youth.

The American Capuchin missionaries who had been on Guam at the start of World War II had been taken prisoner of war and were being held in Japan. The Spanish Capuchin Bishop of Guam, Miguel Olano, was also taken with them, but since Spain was a neutral country on friendly terms with Japan, he was released, but could not return to Guam. Only two Guamanian priests were left on the island during the Japanese occupation. One of them, Fr. Jesus Duenas [hey-ZEUS due-AY-nas] was beheaded by the Japanese before the Allies recaptured the island, leaving Fr. Oscar Calvo alone. After the Allies recaptured Guam, Bishop Olano was permitted to return to Guam.

The war was still raging when the U.S. military gave permission for two American Capuchin priests to go to Guam. Paul was one of them. He remained there for 44 years.

Paul loved Guam and the people. He served as pastor in various parishes, although he found administrative chores distasteful. He was as active in retirement as he had been before, with the only difference being that the administrative tasks were lifted from his shoulders.

Community life was very important to Paul. He was always present at fraternal gatherings and, in turn, was a special gift to the community. He gave his time and talents to make people feel welcome and appreciated.

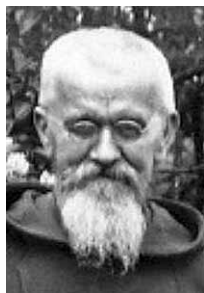
He died of cancer in the friary on Guam where he had been lovingly cared for by the friars. He is buried in the cemetery at Togcha.

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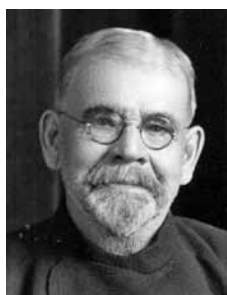
**FERDINAND FOERY [FUR-RY]**, who died at Yonkers in 1948, at age 83, after 56 years of religious life.

Ferdinand was born in Germany. His father was an architect and his uncle was a builder. The family business was quite prosperous. A series of downturns reversed the family fortune, and the 17-year-old Ferdinand decided to try his luck in America. He joined his older sister who was already living in New York. Later, the entire family followed.

After working as a grocery clerk, Ferdinand took a job at the National Sugar Company in Brooklyn. He did well, and the company transferred him to their new plant in Vancouver, Canada. He became disillusioned after a series of difficulties, including being aboard a ship in a storm that lasted two days. He came away from that experience with a determination to return to Brooklyn and to become a Capuchin.

Ferdinand was stationed in most of our friaries both in the East and in the Midwest, serving in whatever capacity was needed — janitor, tailor, cook, gardener and sacristan. The last six years of his life were spent at Yonkers.

Although there was nothing spectacular about his activities, Ferdinand performed small tasks and services that are seldom appreciated until they suddenly cease. Blessed with a good memory, friars enjoyed listening to him recall incidents from the earlier life of the Province which others had forgotten long ago. Ferdinand is buried in Yonkers.



**LUCIUS THIENEL [LOU-SHUSS THEE-NUL]**, Third Order brother, who died in Milwaukee in 1950, at age 92, after 32 years of religious life.

Lucius was born on a farm in Silesia. He had expected to inherit the farm once his military service ended. When the farm, however, was given to his older brother, Lucius left home and went to America.

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  - ℟. Amen.
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He had a cousin living in Chilton, Wisconsin, with whose help he got a job in a local brewery. After working for various breweries throughout the country, Lucius took a job at the Schlitz Brewery in Milwaukee where a co-worker introduced him to Elizabeth Reichling [RIKE-ling] of St. Peter, Wisconsin. The two were married and had eight children, five of whom died in infancy. The two remaining girls entered the convent, one becoming a missionary in China, and their son, Otto, became a Capuchin.

After his wife died and his children were independent, the 60-year-old Lucius joined the Province as a Tertiary Brother and spent the next 33 years at Mt. Calvary, working on the friary farm and helping in many other ways. He supervised the work on the students' new baseball diamond and did most of the heavy work himself. He also built the rustic hermitage of St. Francis that stands in front of the friary.

Old age brought Lucius severe back pain and poor hearing. Eventually blindness was added to his misery. In the end, his rosary was his only consolation.

To make it easier for his family to visit, Lucius was moved to St. Anthony's Hospital in Milwaukee. Two months later, he succumbed to pneumonia. Lucius is buried at Mt. Calvary.



**DAMIAN PORTER, who died at Mt. Calvary in 1983, at age 60, after 26 years of religious life.**

Damian was born and raised on Chicago's south side. When he was 12, he suffered a head injury, after which epilepsy developed and continued for the rest of his life.

At age 22, Damian worked in the Maintenance Department of Mercy Infirmary in Chicago. He had a desire to serve God in religious life, and entered the Redemptorists as a postulant. After 10 months, however, he left on account of his epilepsy.

For the next five years he worked at the Alexian Brothers' Hospital in Chicago. He applied to the Capuchins and spent his candidature and novitiate at St. Francis in Milwaukee.

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Damian was a willing worker, but was more inclined to even, steady work that followed a routine rather than jobs that were very detailed.

During his novitiate year, all the novices and candidates were exposed to Tuberculosis. Damian tested positive for the dreaded disease and required hospitalization. After five months in the sanitarium, he received a clean bill of health and returned to begin his novitiate year again, this time at Mt. Calvary.

After perpetual profession, Damian served as cook, tailor, sacristan and in maintenance at Huntington, St. Elizabeth's in Milwaukee, and St. Joe's in Appleton, after which he took a year off.

Upon his return, Damian was assigned to the newly-built seminary at Crown Point, Indiana. Fatigue, illness and weakness in his legs plagued him. Doctors were at a loss for a definitive diagnosis, and Damian suffered on account of it. Despite his having worked in hospital settings, he found it difficult – both physically and psychologically – to face and accept the limitations imposed on him by his unnamed medical condition.

When Crown Point closed, Damian was transferred to Huntington. The amount of stairs there, however, led to his transfer to Detroit where he helped with tasks that could be done in his wheelchair. When he required additional care, Damian moved to Mt. Calvary. It was there that doctors finally diagnosed his illness as Multiple Sclerosis. He joined a support group and was able to accept the diagnosis. It became a real growth experience for him.

Over the course of the next year, Damian became almost self-sufficient and took great pride in his latch-rug work. His interest and concern for others became more evident. To benefit the MS Support Group, Damian displayed and sold his latch-rug work at a local mall. At one such event he caught a virus which his immune-depleted system could not adequately fight. He succumbed to blood poisoning from the infection a few days later.

Damian is buried at Mt. Calvary.

**DR. JOHN GRAHAM, an Affiliate of the Province, who died on this day in 1996.**

For medical services rendered to the friars of Detroit, Dr. Graham was affiliated to the Province on May 15, 1978.

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MONSIGNOR FRANCIS JANSEN, an Affiliate of the Province,  
who died on this day in 1942.

For establishing a scholarship for candidates of the Order, Monsignor Jansen of Hammond, Indiana, was affiliated to the Province on September 1, 1944.

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