

+Walter (John) Reichelt was born on 07 September 1881 and died on 04 April 1966, at the age of 84 in the Bronx, New York.



Our friar immigrated to the United States from Lipine, Upper Silesia, Germany, and joined the Order in 1918 at the age of 37; remaining at St. Bonaventure Friary in Detroit until 1922. He was recognized as a diligent worker, with a prayerful demeanor, and intent on being a good religious. His first assignment after solemn profession was as cook at St. Elizabeth in Milwaukee WI for one year. For two years at Our Lady of Sorrows NYC, he served as sacristan, a position which pleased this quiet and conscientious brother very much. When his skills as a cook were needed further uptown at Our Lady Queen of Angels, he accepted the will of God with prompt obedience. There is reason to suspect that he did not have any particular attraction for work in the kitchen. During the end of his nine year stay, a change in his personality was noted. He began to get forgetful and irritable. To leave him in the kitchen under the circumstances would be foolhardy, so he was sent to Detroit for general household responsibilities.

The superiors sought a medical opinion for the unusual change in the behavior of this heretofore very dependable worker. He was diagnosed with a mental condition that made it difficult for him to evaluate the relationship of everyday sights, sounds and sensations to the task at hand. A four year period of treatment in a local institution was prescribed, from which he emerged well enough to be sent to St. Michael, Brooklyn NY. There the less stressful task of porter, so very important for the good-will of the friary and parish, became his responsibility. He welcomed people at the door as the Walter of old, quiet and pleasant, and always efficient. He continued, however, to be well aware of his previous condition with a humility that was reflected in the holy demeanor of his life thereafter.

Several years more would be spent at his favorite duty, church sacristan in Sacred Heart, Yonkers NY. Eventually, retirement gave him the time to perfect a previous interest, bookbinding. His expertise was willingly put to work in repairing baptismal and other parish registers, and books from the friary library. On one occasion he entertained a visiting provincial with a German poem. His prayerfulness and willingness to be of help wherever he was able was an inspiration and encouragement to all. In due time his health situation needed constant care, and he spent several years in a nursing home in the Bronx. By the time of his death the evidence was incontestable that he had lived a holy life, perhaps heroic, because of his life-long battle to overcome an inclination to depression.

+Emery (Joseph) Nemeth was born on 06 December 1911 and died on 04 April 1974 at the age of 62 in Riverview, Michigan.

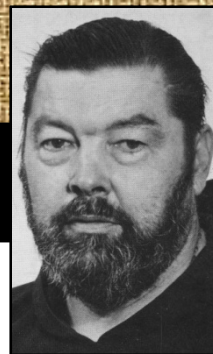


Our friar, of short stature but with boundless energy and a strong voice, came to us from Detroit MI, entering the Order in 1931 after he had graduated from the minor seminary in Garrison NY. A determined student in philosophy and theology, he prepared diligently for his ordination in 1939. His hope was to be a people's priest, a style that he pursued all his life, mixing freely with young and old and always ready to confer the sacraments, teach catechism, give spiritual counsel, or conduct youth activities. In addition, he took every opportunity to preach missions and retreats. For a short period in 1963 preaching was his sole ministry, but for most of his priestly life he was a parish priest, either in the province or in the Guam mission. Yet, only those who heard him preach, listened to him teaching children, or sought him out for spiritual guidance were aware of his spiritual depth.

Between 1940 and 1959 his assignments covered several parishes, but his longest was at Our Lady Queen of Angels, East Harlem NYC. These were the years during the great influx of families from Puerto Rico. To prepare himself to aid in their incorporation into the local church, he first took a course in psychology at Fordham University, and then went to learn Spanish in the home environment of his parishioners. In the parish his special interest became the youth born to Spanish-speaking parents who needed help in assimilating to the ways of American society without losing a cultural identity, or indeed, their faith. After some ten years he went St. Michael in Brooklyn, where the parish demographics were the same and his personal concerns matched those he demonstrated so well at OLQA. His zeal and energy remained in full swing there for the next three years, but soon he would put his focus on the preaching of missions and retreats. This was his total concentration during four years. For some time a wish to do the Lord's work in the missions had been dormant, so at the age of fifty-five he volunteered to work in the Marianas, bringing with him his great experience in training catechists and organizing programs of faith instruction.

This would be the final stop for this dynamic priest of God, who was never one to shirk a call to help where he was needed. As a missionary his first two years were spent on the island of Saipan at Mt. Carmel parish. Next he accepted a call to give spiritual care to military personnel on the island outpost of Wake Island, while serving as an auxiliary chaplain. After two more years back on Saipan, sickness overtook his rugged frame. He returned to the province, where he died near his family home in Michigan.

+Brendan (William) Harsch was born on 27 November 1920 and died on 09 April 1988, at the age of 67 in Newburgh, New York.



Our friar came to us from Tacony PA three years after his discharge from the US Navy submarine service following the Second World War. This most pleasant man, quiet and dependable in his work, demonstrated from the beginning an attraction to prayer. He was a recent convert to Catholicism, so to remedy an oversight, while preparing to enter the novitiate as a lay friar in 1950; he received the sacrament of confirmation from the bishop of Fort Wayne IN in a special ceremony. His young companions in formation were deeply inspired by the degree of maturity he had already reached at the age of 28. Reluctant to speak about himself, rarely offering an opinion unless asked directly, he could still be coaxed to tell fascinating stories about life 'under the sea' during battles in the South Pacific. No one was ever quite sure whether his natural disposition made him a perfect candidate for that dangerous and confining work, or whether he was led to the church and to religious life by his experience of military combat.

Brendan's work specialty during his four years in the navy was as an electrician, and his work before joining the Order gave him experience with machinery. All of this came in handy in his service to the community during his post-novitiate formation at Mary Immaculate Friary in Garrison NY, and later on in several parish assignments. However, for sixteen years from 1955 to 1971 his area of fraternal responsibility was the kitchen, eleven at St. Francis Friary at the Provincialate in Providence RI and then four years at St. Lawrence Friary in Milton MA, the novitiate. To this quiet yet very dependable and obedient religious, the place and the type of work he was assigned made no difference. He was content to be of service to his brothers, and expressed no preferences. After Jesus himself his model of humility as a 'lesser brother' was St. Francis himself.

Yet he had to be somewhat pleased when his abilities at maintenance were utilized from 1971 to 1976 at Our Lady of Sorrows NYC, and then again from 1977 to 1983. This last tour included a place on the parish staff and involvement in parochial activities. The year between his services at OLS he spent at the friary of St. Fidelis in Interlaken NY where, in addition to cooking, he took care of the extensive grounds, giving special care to the flower beds. This avocation served him well in his retirement years at Mary Immaculate Friary, which began in 1983. He began to suffer from diabetes. Always a man of few words, he revealed the depth of his prayerfulness in the serene acceptance of his incapacity to work, never losing his easy smile.

+Ronan (Thomas) O'Brien was born on 17 November 1923, and died on 13 April 1971 at the age of 47 in Hawthorne, New York.

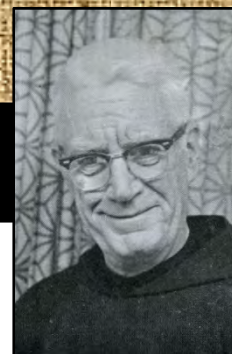


Our friar came out of Yonkers NY, graduated from Gorton High School and then followed a call to the priesthood as one of us, possibly inspired by a Capuchin cousin whom young Thomas, as a fourteen year old, got to know at the cousin's First Solemn Mass. He entered the Order at St. Felix Friary, Huntington IN, in 1942, continued in the study of philosophy at Garrison NY and theology at Marathon WI, and was ordained in 1950. His scholarly inclinations and friendly personality made him a natural as a teacher of youth, and so his first assignment was to the minor seminary in Garrison as a professor and prefect of discipline. He was an excellent teacher, handling several subjects over a ten year period. In 1961, History became his special interest, and he pursued a degree from Fordham University, NYC. Upon returning to the seminary, Ronan resumed his teaching but without the former responsibilities for the students, taking on a new responsibility as chaplain at Villa Loretto, a girls' home for delinquent juveniles in Peekskill NY.

The accumulation of his experiences in education prepared him well for his appointment as rector of the minor seminary, a position he assumed in 1964. His quiet priestly demeanor and gracious manner in dealing with people endeared him to parents and students alike. He handled all areas of administration quietly and efficiently, and was fair in dealing with any inter-personal difficulties that arose. The education of the students, as well as their physical, moral, and spiritual welfare in preparation to become Capuchin priests was his steady focus. The faculty appreciated his willingness to allow them full input into the academic decisions that he had to make. His achievements were duly recognized by the province, and at the chapter of 1967 he was chosen as a provincial definitor. During the following year his life would become one with the priestly sacrifice of Jesus.

A skin cancer condition had been his concern for some time, but signs of an interior progression had become evident. In October of 1968 he resigned as rector in order to begin treatments, during which time he resided at Our Lady Queen of Angels, East Harlem NY. His energy levels were sufficient to help as parish assistant. He moved to his home parish of Sacred Heart, Yonkers NY, and was able to help there as well. Eventually, however, his condition worsened so that he required the hospice care provided by the Dominican Sisters in Hawthorne NY. Little by little his physical strength waned and the pain increased. Yet visitors were consoled by the smile that greeted them and the spiritual serenity that surrounded him until the end.

+Dermot (Edward) Kelly was born on 18 January 1918 and died on 17 April 1983 at the age of 65 in New York City.



Our friar came to us out of Brooklyn NY and enrolled at Glenclyffe preparatory seminary after two years of public high school. He had been inspired by two priests of his youth, one a Capuchin. He hoped to be a priest 'of action' who went beyond the sacramental to reach out to people who were having difficulties. His stalwart and resolute personality, aided by an imposing presence and a remarkable aptitude at all competitive sport, gave him a determination to succeed at whatever would make him a good priest. He was diligent in his study of philosophy and theology, but wished nothing more than to develop his remarkable talent for dramatic public speaking. To this end, after ordination in 1947, he took a one year course in homiletics.

After one year as an assistant at Sacred Heart, Yonkers NY, he began three years at St. John NYC, an assignment he would retain again for twenty-two years after he returned from a five-year period as a chaplain in the United States Navy, where he attained the rank of Lt. Commander. To all accounts he had found his 'action' as a priest serving the military, but he returned to the province to be the unpretentious Capuchin he had wanted from the beginning. His time at Our Lady Queen of Angels and somewhat less than two years at Our Lady of Sorrows, demonstrated a simplicity of approach to people, very direct and very dependable in offering the help needed in the struggles of their daily lives. He enjoyed talking with people, and true to his Irish heritage the conversation was never abrupt and always full of details. In 1961 he moved back to W. 30th Street at St. John Church.

From this place Dermot would exercise his priesthood until his death. He was the one so many found to be the understanding and interested priest they needed to help them. They came to his confessional or to see him in the office. Everyone, whether a confused adolescent, dock worker, truck driver, or recent widow, found their spiritual strength in this compassionate friar. Also a life-long interest in the Cana and Pre-Cana programs began here. In the years following, many couples who received their marriage preparation from him would come by to 'give a report.' Nor did he stay within the confines of the church and friary. Anyone working in the stores nearby, or associated with the surrounding hotels and the railroad station across the way, would have at one time or another been greeted by this 'priest of action' on his walks through the streets. He made sure that everyone knew where he lived, if the need came for some spiritual support. Suddenly, this faithful servant found himself united with the Triune God he served so well for so long.

+Victor (John) Valentovic was born on 15 November 1917 and died on 22 April 1984 at the age of 66 in Springfield, Massachusetts.



Our friar was a most pleasant man who was determined to be the very best at any task he decided upon. At Our Lady Queen of Angels school in E. Harlem NY he chose the priesthood in the Capuchin Order. The first stop was Mary Immaculate Seraphicate, the preparatory seminary in Garrison, where his steady work habits were reflected in the classroom, in his assigned chores, in his sincere and unaffected piety, and in his passion for baseball. He not only played it well but he knew everything about the game, which included the statistics of players and teams. He truly earned the nickname given to him by his classmates, *Baseball Joe*. Yet this intensity was to be even overshadowed by his commitment to the priesthood of Christ as a Capuchin. From his ordination in 1944 he would bring his gentle and unselfish dedication to the service of God's people almost exclusively to our parishes, which was his preference. Only later, at the age of fifty-five, when the province entered more deeply into hospital ministry, was this always obedient friar called upon to affirm in his usual way, "I guess that is what the Lord wants."

His first parochial assignments were at several parishes in Milwaukee WI, but in 1949 he began three years at Our Lady of Sorrows NYC. He was very much at home in an environment similar to the one in which he grew up. As dependable as during his playing days to make the right play or get the timely hit, his priestly style also gave confidence to those who depended on him. He played by the rules that he learned from Jesus through St. Paul "to be diligent in season and out of season." This continued for the next four years in Yonkers NY, where in addition to being parochial assistant at the parish of Sacred Heart, he served the delinquent youth of Children's Village, Dobbs Ferry NY. His unassuming manner in giving his time and attention to the task at hand proved him to be a true son of Saint Francis, who also wished only to point others toward Christ. He spent five years doing the same at St. John's NYC and nine years as pastor of St. Pius X parish in Van Etten NY in the Finger Lakes region of New York State. He did return to Sacred Heart in Yonkers for two years before beginning his hospital ministry in Greenwich CT. For seven of his nine years there he lived with and coordinated the work of other friars similarly engaged.

When cancer began to deplete his energies, he took up less strenuous work in 1978 as confessor and counselor at St. Francis Chapel in Springfield MA. Severe pain accompanied him during his last months, which this faithful friar declared was offered to Jesus for the province and all the brothers.

+Gary (Robert) McAuley was born on 18 July 1938 and died on 22 April 1995 at the age of 56 in Hawthorne, New York.

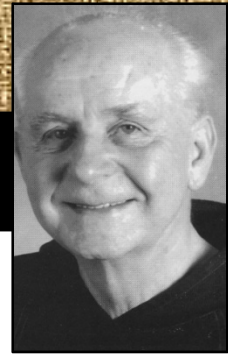


Our friar came to us out of Queens NY and from his days as a student at Glenclyffe was known as a gentleman, brilliant and artistic, with a proper balance of flair and humility, and always a *class act*. His novitiate began at Milton in 1956. Excelling in his studies of philosophy and theology, he was chosen, after ordination in 1964, to pursue advanced studies. A five-year journey would prepare him for teaching, and the first stop was at Georgetown University to learn French, and then to the University of Ottawa for a licentiate in theology. A second trip to Georgetown during the summer of 1966 gave him competence in German. Two years at the Institut Catholique, Paris, earned him a degree in Sacred Liturgy. While there he also found time to study Spanish at the University of Pamplona and take a course in Art History at the Louvre Museum in Paris. A final period of two years at the Louvain in Belgium, majoring in religious psychology and sociology, was the finish of his preparation to begin teaching at the Maryknoll School of Theology. Upon his return to the province in 1969, he resided at Mary Immaculate Friary, Garrison NY.

One more year in Paris (1972) completed his theological studies. He resumed his post at Maryknoll, but also served from 1976 as dean of the Capuchin theology students and guardian of the friary. Elected in 1981 to the provincial council, he moved to Saint Conrad Friary, White Plains, but continued his teaching. In 1985 he took a year's time for a sabbatical to study religion and art at Yale Divinity in New Haven, CT, and then returned to Maryknoll until 1988 when he was appointed to the faculty of St. Mary's Seminary in Maryland as professor of Sacramental Theology and Liturgy. His election as provincial minister at the chapter of 1993 terminated his academic career because his term as provincial would never be completed.

Early in 1994 a lower back pain was diagnosed as inoperable cancer. Yet without any hint of self-pity, he suffered in silence for almost a year as he continued to fulfill his provincial duties, stressing to the friars the beauty of our heritage and calling us to appreciate the treasures that reflected our provincial history. Three weeks before his death a letter to the friars simply revealed his health situation, and asked everyone to be with him in prayer during this time of grace. He would take two weeks to be alone and prepare for his ascent toward Jerusalem. His letter closed with the words: "*I encourage you to see and experience God's love all around us.*" This "class act" was a gentleman to the end!

+Colman (James) Boylan was born on 29 July 1920 and died on 22 April 2003 at the age of 82 in Middletown, Connecticut.

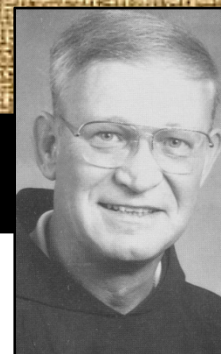


After two years at Bushwick High School, Brooklyn NY and four years at the minor seminary in Garrison NY, this steadily dependable friar entered the Order in 1941. He completed philosophy studies at Mary Immaculate in Garrison and his theology in St. Anthony in Marathon WI, and was ordained a priest in 1949. His hopes had been to serve as a parish priest, but he was first called to place his spiritual insights and pastoral interests in the service of the province as assistant novice master, spending two years in Huntington IN, and then three years in Milton MA. For one year in 1955 at the Provincialate, an opportunity to give weekly parish assistance honed his life-long interest in exercising his priesthood directly with the people. His natural disposition was to find fulfillment in offering the Eucharist, celebrating baptisms and weddings, hearing confessions, visiting the sick, and being available for spiritual counseling. His smiling face and gentle approach would make him very loved in every place where he ministered. This very simple Capuchin friar found time to relax with a cigar or pipe, and he took whatever opportunity presented itself to exercise by jogging.

His service as a parish assistant began at Sacred Heart, Yonkers NY in 1956. In 1959 he was sent to be part of the staff when St. Francis Chapel was opened in Springfield MA. His serene and friendly nature made him well-liked by the many workers, shoppers and visitors who came to the chapel for Mass, confession, and spiritual guidance. After only one year he was asked to assume duties as spiritual director of the students at St. Anthony Friary in Hudson NH. In 1961, when asked to take an assignment as pastor of St. Michael, Brooklyn NY, this ever obedient friar accepted, but was relieved of the assignment on his own request upon realizing his inadequacy to do justice to that responsibility. He was most content to become an assistant at St. Pius X, Middletown CT where he would remain for twelve years.

His return to St. Francis Chapel in 1973 would last for eighteen years. During this time he was notably successful as director of the program for engaged couples. Some increasing physical difficulties put an emotional strain on his quiet disposition, but he found strength in the prayer life he had cultivated so long. After a short time at St. Clare Friary for senior friars, he accepted semi-retirement back at Middletown, where he gave whatever help in the parish that he was able. Progressive weakness soon confined him to a wheelchair and constant care in a nursing home. On his visits to the friary the brothers found his spiritual serenity intact, a constant cause of inspiration.

+Joseph (Anthony) Egan was born on 29 June 1939 and died on 24 April 2004 at the age of 64 in Portland, Maine.

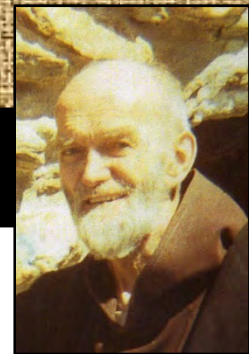


Our friar had first intended to become a priest of the Archdiocese of New York, but after three years at Cathedral College he discovered that his energetic spirit could find a greater variety of expression with the Capuchins. After one year at the minor seminary in Garrison NY, he joined the Order in 1957. After philosophy and theology studies in Hudson NH and Garrison NY, he was ordained in 1965. Putting heart and soul for two years into the study of Japanese in Tokyo, he began his life as a missionary on Okinawa in 1968. His nature was restless, and his personality was strong and commanding, which some found to be intimidating. He had responsibilities in several parishes over a four year period. In 1972 he transferred to the mission territory of the Marianas Islands, before returning to the province after three years. While at Our Lady of Sorrows NYC in 1975 he became ill and spent time recuperating at the novitiate in Milton MA. After two years in short assignments and one year as associate pastor of St. John, NYC, he returned to the Guam mission for one year. At that time his long-time interest in working with law enforcement and armed forces personnel prompted him to take a course in procedure at the Military Ordinariate, ending with a position in the diocesan tribunal. He returned to the province in 1979.

Two years were spent living at Sacred Heart, Yonkers NY, and serving as chaplain at Yonkers General Hospital. Then, sparked by his experience as *officialis* on Guam, he spent from 1981 to 1984 at the Catholic University of America, pursuing a degree in Canon Law. In New York, residing at St. John he worked with the Propagation of the Faith in the chancery of the Archdiocese. At this time a cancer condition was discovered, which called for an operation so he spent a year recuperating at Sacred Heart and completing his thesis to earn his JCL degree. He served a year and a half on the staff of St. Francis Chapel, Springfield MA, bringing his energy to the chapel's various programs and to the sacramental needs of the workers and shoppers who came downtown. Finally, his ministry became focused for eleven years until 1997 at the work in the marriage tribunals of the New York Archdiocese and the Diocese of Burlington VT.

This vigorous friar was slowed down by several operations for his cancer condition, but accepted the pain and inconvenience with admirable spiritual resolve and cheerfulness. He became strong enough to work for a time in Portland ME as hospital chaplain and then as regional assistant to the Secular Franciscan fraternities of Northern New England until his sudden death.

+Rufin (William) Powers was born on 26 April 1887 and died on 25 April 1971 at the age of 83 in Pawtucket, Rhode Island.

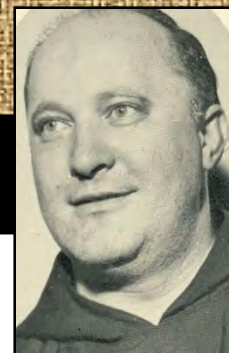


After serving in the army during World War I and being trained as a medical technician, our friar entered the Order at the age of 33, where his knowledge of medicine was put to good use. After high school, he had enrolled at Marquette University in Milwaukee but, unable to afford the tuition, was eventually hired to work in the administration offices. In the Order his first of many assignments as infirmarian at our seminaries was at Mount Calvary WI, which lasted from 1921 to 1932. For one year, in addition to his duties as infirmarian, he was an instructor of the lay friar candidates at the novitiate in Huntington IN; followed by seven years of service at Mary Immaculate Friary, Garrison NY. Although only rarely called upon to handle very serious cases, he was well aware when a doctor was needed. This quiet and prayerful man may have appeared simple to some seminarians, but he could not be fooled by a student looking to escape an exam. His judgment was trusted.

When the porter at St. Bonaventure Friary, Detroit MI, needed some assistance in 1943, Rufin was sent to help. He served there until 1949, and during this time gave much of his attention to caring for the large cloister garden that surrounded the friary. His final assignment as infirmarian was back at Glenclyffe High School for three years. At the division of the province this son of Wisconsin decided to remain in the new province in the East. At the age of 65 he went to Sacred Heart, Yonkers NY, to serve as porter. His prayerful piety and simplicity of service to God's people reflected the example of those lay brothers whose sanctity has been acknowledged by the church and who are now looked upon as embodying the essential expression of the Capuchin way of life, prayerful simplicity and minority.

During his time in Yonkers, when someone was able to take him, he enjoyed visiting a Marian shrine in Connecticut that was a replica of Lourdes. Unfortunately, he presumed everyone knew the way and often his driver presumed that Rufin did. On these occasions his trust in his guardian angel proved to be a bit misplaced. For one final year as porter at St. Pius X in Middletown CT, he was closer to his favorite shrine and everyone knew the way. In 1968 his health failed and he was sent for full care to the Little Sisters of the Poor in Pawtucket RI, a facility that was near the Provincialate in Providence. While there, this friar became a favorite of the staff who arranged for the celebration of his golden religious jubilee at the home, which was attended by the provincial and many visiting friars. In time he died as serenely as he had lived.

+William (Francis) Machosky was born on 10 September 1924 and died on 26 April 1966 at the age of 41 in Brooklyn, New York.



Our friar came to us from Blawnox PA in 1942, and brought with him a very agreeable personality and a spirit for hard work. Although he did spend periods of up to two years in various friaries, which included St. Anthony, Marathon WI and Sacred Heart, Yonkers NY, this very likeable and dependable brother would become associated for most of his life with one place, St. Michael, Brooklyn NY. He worked there for 17 of the 21 years that followed his final profession, providing fraternal service to the community, partly as cook, but mostly as sacristan, with an occasional turn as porter. After the first fifteen years, he was given a change, two brief assignments at Garrison NY and Springfield MA. He was pleased, however, to return to St. Michael in 1964, a place where all the people knew him as Brother Willie and admired him with affection. Yet, before two years were over, he was to die one morning while serving the early Mass. Those who saw him collapse as he prepared to serve the water and wine thought that he had merely fainted. But he had died instantly.

The people knew him best for his work in the church and sacristy. His pride and devotion was evident in the way he decorated for the big feasts, Christmas and Easter, but also for Corpus Christi and the Forty Hours devotion. To him anything to do with the church was the Lord's work. Nor did he just apply himself in ways that would reveal his decorative artistry. No job was too strenuous or beneath his dignity for this man who seemed to be busy from the moment he opened the church in the morning, cleaning during the day, and even mopping the kitchen floor late into the evening. He was always ready with a helping hand when another friar could use one. For example, in the middle of a busy Sunday morning, between his sacristy duties and answering the phone, he would offer to prepare a breakfast of bacon and eggs for a priest who had just celebrated two Masses.

He was a plain man of spiritual depth, prayerfully quiet, and was never disposed to complain, even when it seemed that he had a cause. When his efforts to do well with a task assigned to him would prove unsatisfactory, he was never resentful to have this pointed out to him. His constant example of simple humility that he was displayed in every possible circumstance endeared him to all the people in whatever place he served. Is it any wonder that the sudden death of such a beloved brother, dear to the people, touched everyone in the parish! The friars, also moved by the loss of their brother, noticed that many people cried openly during the funeral Mass.

+Norbert (Bernard) Elsner was born on 15 November 1893 and died on 27 April 1964 at the age of 70 in Bluefields, Nicaragua.



Our friar was born in Polkowitz, Germany, and as a young boy settled with his parents in Brooklyn. He spent several years after high school working to support his parents, and then, inspired by the prayerful and austere life of the friars of St. Michael Church, decided to join them. He entered the Order at the age of 24, with a strong determination to be a friar after the heart of Saint Francis. For the rest of his life this ideal never wavered. In later years as guardian and in the missions as Superior Regular his concern that others be just as faithful to their religious commitment led some to the judgment that he was too demanding a superior. Ordained at 31, he was immediately called on to assume various provincial responsibilities. His first assignment was as professor and director of the brother candidates in the original friary at Garrison. In 1927 he became guardian there. In 1930 his zeal for the Franciscan way brought him as guardian to the novitiate in Huntington IN. Then in 1933, elected to serve on the provincial definitory, he returned to Garrison as guardian of the new friary.

His request for some pastoral ministry brought him in 1937 as vicar of the community at Our Lady Queen of Angels in East Harlem NYC. After two years he became pastor upon the sudden death of his predecessor and also as guardian of the community until 1944. He was now ready to follow his ideal of a friar's life, so at the age of 51 he asked to be sent as a missionary to Bluefields, Nicaragua. For twenty years he worked with an amazing zeal, even in moments of discouragement, in a tropical climate that taxed the energy of much younger men. He never tired of beautifying the Cathedral and responded resourcefully to the needs of the people, whether baptizing, giving instructions, performing marriages, confessing or as chaplain visiting the sick and dying at the hospital.

In addition to pastoral responsibilities, the friars could depend on him to take care of the monastery garden, keep the library in order, and look after the parish books. His sermons were well-prepared, always finding it helpful to write out the Spanish beforehand every week. His end came as he might have wished. On an extremely hot day in a stuffy Cathedral, he suffered a stroke as he celebrated Mass. True to form, he would not discontinue but struggled to finish, and then collapsed in the sacristy afterwards. He died the following day. This friar and priest worked hard, lived poorly, and cultivated a deep prayer life, remaining a true follower of Saint Francis and faithful in the service of God's people until the end.

+Clement (Anthony) Paterra was born on 31 May 1928 and died on 27 April 1984 at the age of 55 in Yonkers, New York.



Our friar, a man of few words that seemed measured from a deep wisdom, joined us at the age of 30 from Yonkers NY, having studied at Sacred Heart elementary and high school and then worked for several years as an auto mechanic. He then took education courses for certification to teach in the Yonkers public school system. Through his friendship with a friar at Sacred Heart he was encouraged to think about a religious vocation, and possibly the priesthood. In 1958 he began his novitiate in Milton MA, and moved on for his philosophical and theological studies. Slender as a reed, Clem could do just about anything he put his hand to, from becoming a barber to hitting a softball a country mile. During his formation years his many skills were used to maintain the friary cars and other machinery. In 1965 at the age of 37 he was ordained a priest. After that he was a constant example to every friar of the austere and contemplative nature of our life, never engaging in wasteful banter of any kind, but always pleasant and willing to offer an opinion on the issues that interested his listener.

His first assignment was to Mary Immaculate Friary, Garrison NY where for nine years he served as formation director of the lay friars. In addition to classroom teaching and directing the training programs, he served as chaplain at a home in Peekskill for neglected children. Occasionally the opportunity arose to accompany one of our preachers in giving missions and retreats. In 1975 he moved to Sacred Heart friary, and brought his quiet and compassionate priestly service to St. Joseph's medical center and nursing home. During this time kidney problems developed, and also the annoyance of a psoriasis condition. Eventually, in order to be faithful to a regimen of dialysis treatment he had to give up his work as chaplain. Never a word of self-pity escaped him. His calm and pleasant demeanor was continually in evidence. The spirit of prayer directed him to offer his life to the glory of the Father in union with the sacrifice of Jesus. When asked why he did not want to be placed on the list for a kidney transplant, he replied simply: *"There are not many kidneys available, and others have more reason to live than I do."*

The last years of his life before needing nursing home care were spent with the friars at Sacred Heart, giving them the example of how to welcome Sister Death with the joy of St. Francis, and leaving nothing behind that had to be given away. He offered morning Mass before anyone else rose, and spent most of the day in the presence of the Lord. He joined the community at prayer and meals until he was unable.

+Myles (James) Parsons was born on 29 April 1918 and died on 29 April 1998 at the age of 80 in the Bronx, New York.



Our friar was the second of three brothers from Sacred Heart, Yonkers NY, who became Capuchins. The oldest, who had just declined a professorship of theology at Catholic University of America, died at the age of 35 in 1945. His younger sibling certainly had the family brilliance, but lacked the same aura of the priestly gentleman. Myles, who joined the Order in 1935, tackled his studies with characteristic intensity. By nature compassionate, and at times even sentimental, his descriptive language in conversation was judged by friars to be just an attempt to distance himself from his 'sainted' older brother. Ordained in 1943, he began as professor of Latin and German at Mt. Calvary and then as professor of Latin at Glencllyffe. He was a brilliant teacher, totally in love with his subject, and is remembered for his feigned heart attacks when receiving a wrong answer after a pains-taking explanation of some rule of syntax. On weekends and in the summer he managed to obtain an MA degree in classic languages at Fordham University.

In 1955 his pastoral ministry began at Our Lady of Sorrows NYC, a parish with an increasing number of families from Puerto Rico. To be one with the new arrivals he learned Spanish. His efforts to increase enrollment in the parochial school, and to expand the catechetical program for public school children demonstrated his concern for the new generation. An unexpected collapse during his last months as pastor called for a period of rest, which he used for study in Spain. On his return he would spend seventeen years in the hospital ministry, first at Grasslands Hospital NY (1962). Two short periods as parochial vicar in E. Harlem and at Our Lady of Sorrows would intervene, but he resumed this most compatible work in 1971 at Lutheran Medical Center in Brooklyn, continued at Brookhaven Memorial in E. Patchogue NY (1976), and finally in Norwalk Hospital CT in 1978. During this time he pursued his study of languages, learning modern Greek and French, continued his weekly 15-20 mile walks, and cultivated an interest in the history of railroads. Hospital staffs might always know when he was in the building, but his bedside manner with patients was always compassionate.

After five years at Norwalk, he took a sabbatical year in Greece, and then moved to Saint John NYC as a parochial vicar. Eventually this vigorous man surrendered to the exigencies of advancing years and retired to St. Clare, Yonkers NY, in 1994. Nursing home care soon became necessary. With no further need to impress anyone, he died peacefully, prayerfully, and beloved by those who truly knew this remarkable friar.