

+Hugh (Michael) Morley as born on 17 October 1908 and died on 08 March 1978 at the age of 69 in New York City.

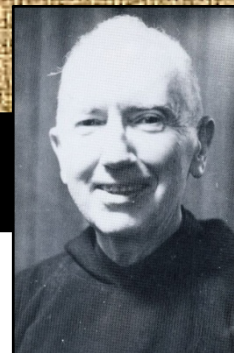


Our friar came out of the Irish enclave of New York City's northern section of East Harlem, across from the South Bronx, also an area heavily populated by Irish immigrants. His ethnic love for story-telling, a vivid imagination, and a facility with the printed word would serve him well in the career at which he would become well-known and respected. After two years in All Hallows high school his path turned toward the Capuchins and Mary Immaculate Seraphicate, the minor seminary at Garrison NY. He entered the Order in 1928 at Detroit. Six years were given to philosophical and theological studies at Marathon WI before ordination in 1935. He was assigned to Sacred Heart, Yonkers NY as assistant pastor.

In addition to pastoral responsibilities, he developed a life-long interest in journalism as he learned about the provincial publication being printed there that focused on things Franciscan, called *The Seraphic Chronicle*. By 1937 he was enrolled at Columbia University School of Journalism, and in due time became editor of the magazine. A few years later his vision brought into being a new provincial magazine with broader Catholic appeal, called *The Cowl*. In 1962 his professional reputation brought him an appointment as the representative for the Catholic Press Union at the United Nations. He would continue to live at Sacred Heart Friary until 1974, when a move to St. John Friary NYC making it easier to commute to his office at the U.N. Although never assigned to pastoral ministry after 1937, he was happy to take on priestly work whenever the opportunity arose. His greatest satisfaction was being asked in 1971 to serve as an adjunct associate at a diocesan parish in South Yonkers NY.

Hugh was recognized by the province for his pragmatism and his ability to make sound judgments about people, and three times he was elected to the definitory. To the friars he sometimes gave the impression of being 'out of touch' by the quizzical look he had while listening to others. This shrewd tactic made people think that he was having a hard time understanding. The effect at times was purposeful and was helped by his owl-like look, the result of a thyroid condition from his youth. In the midst of a very busy life, he suffered an infected tooth in the upper jaw, an annoying affliction which called for emergency treatment by a dentist. Something went wrong and the roof of his mouth was compromised. The infection spread to his brain, and he was taken to St. Clare's Hospital in NYC. The death of this remarkable friar just a few days later came as a surprise to all.

+Brian (Roger) Ward was born on 29 August 1913 and died on 11 March 1991 at the age of 77 in Warwick, New York.

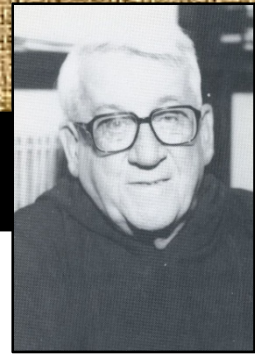


For nine years of his priestly life, during his time as a chaplain in the United States Navy, our friar was aptly described as an officer and a gentleman. He had enlisted during the Second World War until 1946 and then served again from 1950 to 1956, reaching the rank of Commander. However, during his entire life his manner was always gentlemanly, unruffled and friendly, with a penchant for wanting everything in order. He was born in NYC, but in due course the family moved to Yonkers where the young man attended Sacred Heart School, met the Capuchins, and after the seventh grade attended the minor seminary in Garrison. He entered the Order in 1931 at Huntington IN, resumed studies at Mary Immaculate Friary, Garrison, and then St. Anthony in Marathon WI, leading to ordination in June 1938.

His scholarly aptitude and precise presentation of ideas were put to use in his first assignments as retreat master at Monte Alverno conference center in Appleton WI and as professor from 1940 to 1943 at Mt. Calvary WI. Then his military career began. After the war, between separate enlistments, he was four years at Sacred Heart, Yonkers, as assistant pastor and full-time professor of religion at the parish high school, probably the most satisfying years of his priestly life. In 1956 Brian became director of the postulancy program for lay candidates at Hudson NH and then, in effect, assumed the role of a country gentleman as guardian in Milton MA from 1958 to 1964. The prayerful and peaceful atmosphere of the novitiate suited him very well, and in addition to any in-house responsibilities he enjoyed an ambassador-at-large relationship to the neighbors and the religious communities in the area.

He then began a disappointing period of his life. In obedience he assumed the direction of the clerical students at Garrison NY, a period of three years that revealed a man out of place. In the new environment of formation, his military personality could not adjust to the need for being a mentor rather than a disciplinarian, and circumstances proved him capable of neither. So he gladly moved on to a new responsibility in 1967 as chaplain at Norwich State Hospital for the mentally challenged. Within two years, plagued by hypertension, he developed a condition that was diagnosed as cerebral arteriosclerosis. This circumstance demanded extended care, so he began a period of convalescence in Yonkers, which continued until he needed to enter a nursing home where he remained until his death. This gifted friar had somehow found himself on an emotional uphill climb, yet recaptured his cheerful and gentle disposition during his last years.

+Gereon (Kevin) Lindsay was born on 13 November 1916 and died on 11 March 1991 at the age of 74 in Danbury, Connecticut.



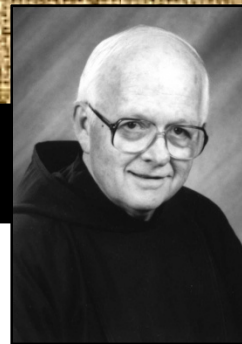
Our friar was a Capuchin-in-the-making from the beginning. Baptized in St. John Church NYC, he attended the parish school and met the Capuchins first hand as an altar server. In due time his path led to the minor seminary in Garrison, then to the novitiate in 1935, and after philosophy and theology at Mary Immaculate and St. Anthony, he was ordained in 1943. After two years of parish work in Milwaukee WI and Yonkers NY, this ever-smiling and easy-going priest began a preaching ministry at Monte Alverno Retreat House in Appleton WI that lasted four years, and as a member of the mission band out of St. John Friary for five years. His pleasant voice and engaging manner made his message easily accepted and appreciated by all.

He was able to settle down in the rural setting of Interlaken NY, as guardian of St. Fidelis Friary and pastor of the local parish for three years, but was then transported to a completely opposite venue, the inner-city of East Harlem, where he served as guardian of the community and pastor of Our Lady Queen of Angels church for another three years. Perhaps because the pressures of administration were not conducive to his basic inclination to accept everything the way it happens to be, he found himself very content as assistant pastor at Sacred Heart, Yonkers, for the following nine years particularly in his position as teacher in the parish high school.

Kindness in dealing with everyone and openness in listening to young and old alike characterized his priestly ministry everywhere, and was especially evident in the place he would spend the next twenty-one years. Prepared with certification as a general and mental health chaplain, he began his work at Harlem Valley State Hospital. To serve at such a large institution of eight large buildings took extraordinary zeal, plus time and energy, and a regime of prayer to which Gereon was ever faithful. His Sunday Mass in the public chapel brought people from the surrounding neighborhood who wanted to hear this saintly man preach. In addition to daily Masses, he distributed communion in one building each week, and made every effort to visit each patient in the course of a week, both Catholic and non-Catholic.

His ability to speak German and Spanish was also of great assistance to patients and staff alike. To one and all he might begin a conversation with a cheery: "Hi, friend!" In the course of the years, his diminishing energy made some changes necessary, but he brought a sense of warmth and kindness to the people, showing them the compassion of Jesus, even when he was forced to bring along his oxygen cart. He continued his hospital ministry almost to the end.

+Nelson (John) Ruppert as born on 02 September 1939 and died on 11 March 2000 at the age of 60 in White Plains, New York.

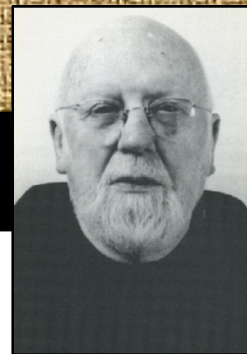


Our friar came to us from Yonkers NY, after first considering a vocation to the diocesan clergy. He spent three years at the minor seminary in Garrison NY, and then in 1958 entered the Order at Milton MA. At an early age he had become an orphan, and managed the affairs of a younger sickly brother until his death. Having proven to be a precise and meticulous student during his philosophical and theological studies, he was sent to Catholic University of America immediately after his ordination in 1966 to pursue a degree in Library Science. In 1968 he began thirteen years of exceptional service as librarian at our Capuchin International College in Rome, encompassing hours of painstaking labor each day, first as assistant and then as chief librarian from 1970 to 1981. He was admired by all the friars for his fraternal spirit, finely honed sense of duty, and his delightful sense of humor, especially concerning many linguistic difficulties in his initial use of the Italian language. His enthusiasm for his work, unending kindness and customary availability to students left a lasting impression for years to come. Because of his solid life of prayer and gentleness he was sought out as a confessor by the younger friars.

Back in the province in 1981, Nelson brought his very focused and gentle personality to the administration of the parish high school at Sacred Heart in Yonkers NY, where he also served as the vicar of the community. The guardian and pastor found great support in his reliability to complete any task well and especially grateful for his cheerful presence in a community of many diverse personalities. Those who asked for his assistance in any area, but especially where he had special competence, knew that he would be very helpful and accommodating.

In 1984 he went to rural upstate New York at St. Fidelis Friary on Cayuga Lake as guardian. This quiet and prayerful friar enjoyed being the country pastor, shepherding in his gentle way the parish of St. Francis Solanus in Interlaken NY. In 1990, when no longer guardian of the community, he became pastor of Holy Cross in the nearby town of Ovid for eight years. Having developed some heart problems, he was sent to recuperate at St. Clare Friary, Yonkers NY and later at St. Conrad Friary. While at White Plains, he served as chaplain of a cancer home in Hawthorne where his compassionate and sensitive style pleased the sisters and served the patients well. This docile servant of God and the Order was called by Sister Death as he was preparing to leave for his morning Mass, one sock on and one sock waiting.

+Cosmas (Joseph) Niedhammer was born on 27 February 1900 and died on 12 March 1997 at the age of 97 in Beacon, New York.

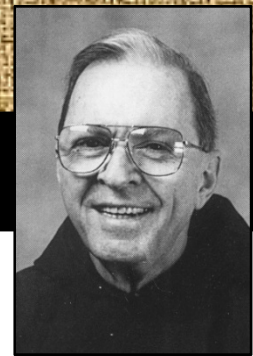


Our friar was the oldest of three brothers to enter the Order from Our Lady Queen of Angels, East Harlem NY, and the last to die. At the time of his death he was the senior friar of the province and had reached an age greater than any friar before him. His appearance was that of a kind and gentle senior, looking seventy-five when he was only fifty-five years old. He was a priest just short of seventy years, having entered the order in 1920 and ordained in 1927. His first years were spent as professor of German and ancient history in the minor seminary, first at Mt. Calvary WI until 1933 and then at Garrison NY. At Mary Immaculate Friary he also served as director of the postulants who were preparing to enter the Order as lay friars. From 1938 his life would be spent in the novitiate, first as the lay friars' novice master in Detroit MI for fourteen years and then in the new province as a senior friar and confessor at Milton MA for twenty-seven years. He had always projected a true Capuchin image, demonstrating with dignity and charm a disciplined life of simple poverty, but as he grew older a joyful spirit of priestly service, a truly fraternal love of the friars, and his very gentle and pleasant disposition were marked by an exemplary spirit of prayer.

During his Milton days his zeal took him to parishes to help on weekends, and sometimes for extended periods during vacation time. Priests in the area took advantage of his steady presence and came to the friary for their regular confession. He frequently served as friary receptionist, and became very well known to the neighbors. Ordinarily nothing prevented him from taking a day off during the week to travel into Boston for a walk around the city. His concern that his inability to drive a car caused inconvenience to others prompted one hilarious attempt to remedy the situation by learning to ride a bicycle. As he practiced pedaling around the front driveway, his dignity received a blow when the bicycle ended up on top of him in some bushes. After that he accepted his dependency. His sense of humor held up even during the years when a severe case of psoriasis was a constant annoyance.

The novitiate moved to Garrison NY in 1979, and Cosmas retired to the temporary friary in Abington MA for ten years, becoming a favored confessor at the local parish. When the friary closed, he took up residence at St. Clare's in Yonkers until the debilities of old age necessitated his final journey to the infirmary in Beacon NY. This saintly friar, without the beard that he had worn for over sixty-five years, spent his last years with a serenity that reflected the peace of a lifetime lived in God's presence.

+Sigmund (Louis) Hafemann was born on 15 January 1927 and died on 13 March 1996 at the age of 69 in Seminole, Florida.

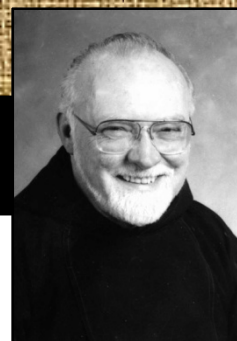


Our friar came from St. Joseph's parish in Yonkers NY. At first, he had every intention of becoming a priest of the Archdiocese of New York, and enrolled at Cathedral College for high school. By the time of graduation his hopes became focused on the life of a missionary and to that purpose he attended the Maryknoll Seminary in Clarks Summit PA for one year. However, that dream would be realized only as a Capuchin. After one year in St. Lawrence College, Mt. Calvary WI, he joined the Order at St. Felix Friary, Huntington IN, in 1946. His ordination in 1953 followed philosophical and theological studies between Garrison NY and Marathon WI. This energetic, imaginative, and very talented priest would assume varied responsibilities in the province for the next forty-three years. His abilities in pastoral leadership and great organizational skills became evident during his first assignment in St. Michael, Brooklyn NY, as assistant pastor, teacher in the parish high school, and director of the Secular Franciscan Fraternity.

His success guiding the "Third Order" in Brooklyn was followed by an eleven year appointment as Provincial Commissary for the Order at a time when the province and the local fraternities were trying to meet the challenge of their common vocation. With leadership workshops and some province-wide conventions to motivate the general membership, he was able to cultivate competent lay leadership. Some rather imaginative fund-raising projects, for the times a bit controversial, included a concert at Carnegie Hall, annual pilgrimages to Europe and tours throughout the United States. He distributed monthly conferences to the membership on various aspects of the Franciscan way of life. The leadership manual that he planned, executed, and distributed to all fraternities of the secular province became a prototype for others throughout the country and set the standard for the renewal that would follow the Second Vatican Council. In 1969, having proven himself an able writer with a flair for public relations, he was asked to establish the office of provincial director of communications, which he ran for three years. Then his opportunity came to follow his original missionary dream.

The remainder of his life reflects his abilities and priestly zeal: four years as missionary in Guam, pastor at St. John Church NYC, and pastor of Blessed Sacrament Church in Manchester NH. At this time the discovery of a heart condition necessitated a diminution of stress, and this energetic friar was now content to oversee the house established for senior friars in Florida, where he remained in prayerful and serene retirement until his death.

+Peter McCall was born on 29 October 1935 and died on 14 March 2001 at the age of 65 in Honolulu, Hawaii.



Our friar came to us from the Bronx, where he attended Fordham Prep, hoping to follow an older brother into the Society of Jesus. At the time he was afflicted with stuttering that precluded a teaching career, but his intensity of purpose impressed our vocation director. His novitiate began in 1954 and he received the religious name of 'Aloysius'. A special program in speech therapy proved successful. Philosophy and theological studies were the challenge he needed to reach his goal of priesthood in 1962.

After two years as an assistant at Our Lady Queen of Angels, East Harlem NY, a youthful desire to be a missionary prompted him to ask for an assignment in Guam. He began a nine year tour on the faculty of Father Duenas Memorial high school, with enthusiasm and great interest in all student activities, especially the sports program. In addition to working with students, his joy was to respond to any call by the other missionaries for help in their parochial work. In the meantime, he had resumed the use of his baptismal name. His willingness to be involved in every school or parish event prompted the friars, who so often heard him say: "I have to go to a meeting," to dub him Meetin' Pete. His energetic and compulsive drive to get involved in so much took its toll on his health, and he returned to the province in 1974 to serve at the parish high school in Sacred Heart, Yonkers.

In 1978 he found personal inspiration from a group of priests who had formed a charismatic prayer group which gave him a determination to help bring joy to people's spiritual lives. Realizing that some good people put undue focus on their physical and emotional difficulties, he resolved to bring their attention to the healing power of Christ. After beginning with prayer services in the high school chapel, he was welcomed by the Sacramentine Sisters in Yonkers to use their convent chapel to conduct healing Masses. A team of lay persons began to assist him and soon his reputation as an inspirational preacher and reports of his healing of both emotional and physical ills had extended to parishes everywhere, first locally and then around the country. Having received permission to work full-time in this ministry, he opened a center for small retreats with a focus on the Eucharist, and devotion to Mary as the mother of Jesus and our mother also. He led groups to visit Marian sanctuaries in this country and in Europe. The motto for his work: *There is nothing but love in God*, was enshrined in a book that related the miracles of healing which he had witnessed. While in Hawaii for a series of healing services, the Spirit called him to his final meeting.

+Seraphin (Herbert) Winterroth was born on 12 September 1898 and died on 16 March 1971 at the age of 72 in Garrison, New York.



Our friar, ordained in 1925, had come to us out of Rochester NY. He entered the Order in Detroit MI in 1918, having been inspired by a Capuchin who had come to preach a mission in his home parish. His judicious and intelligent mind, having mastered four languages along the way, became evident as an exceptional teacher and also a prefect of discipline at the minor seminary in Garrison NY. After six years he took up the parochial ministry for two years at St. Elizabeth in Milwaukee WI. That experience prepared him to be pastor and guardian at Our Lady of Sorrows NYC in 1933 and thus he began at the age of 35 a steady call to positions of leadership in the province. Only two periods of three years each as a parish assistant, one at Sacred Heart, Yonkers NY, and another at Our Lady Queen of Angels, East Harlem NYC, would intervene. In both places he was also the vicar of the community.

Then began what this city-bred friar himself would describe as the most satisfying of his life, two tours as superior of the Indian Mission in St. Labre, Montana. His terms were separated by four years as Guardian at Mary Immaculate Friary in Garrison NY, when he had also served on the provincial council. His return to the mission in 1949 lasted just three years. An appointment came from the Order's Roman headquarters to serve as the vicar provincial in the new province of Saint Mary. At the same time he was an assistant to the pastor of Our Lady Queen of Angels in East Harlem. In 1955 at the first chapter of the new province he was elected Provincial Minister and then re-elected in 1958. During his terms the province expanded into New England by opening a new parish at Middletown CT, and a downtown chapel in Springfield MA. Yet his style of leadership could never be described as hands-on, because he favored more the delegation of specific responsibilities to those whom he judged were most capable of doing whatever was required.

After three years at Our Lady Queen of Angels, he was again elected in 1964 to the provincial council and served at the same time as superior at St. Francis Friary, Providence RI, the provincial headquarters. By this time something more restful was in order, so he spent the next three years in the rural setting at St. Fidelis Friary at Interlaken NY, serving as superior but with very little need to be concerned about administration. Full retirement followed at Mary Immaculate Friary, Garrison NY where he gladly assumed responsibility as librarian and senior story-teller. In the beginning of the following year, he took sick and died as he lived, in prayerful serenity.

+Berthold (Edward) Buckley was born on 30 January 1925 and died on 19 March 1968 at the age of 43 in Yonkers, New York.



Our friar was not with us long, a Capuchin for twenty-four years and a priest only seventeen. Gifted with scholarly interest, native intelligence and an outgoing personality, he prepared himself with great zeal for priestly ministry. During his formation years, those who were having difficulty with studies felt free to look to him for assistance and found encouragement to persevere toward the goal. In addition to everything else, he was an awesome athlete. A future of influence both within the Order and as a priest in service to God's people looked very promising. Within a few years after his ordination, however, those who worked closely with him began to notice a loss of energy that was slowing him down. Yet he was still able to continue working with his usual friendly disposition. In a few years an infectious bone condition would eventually incapacitate him with excruciating pain. Suffering would be his constant companion, which he accepted with remarkable patience and good will, uniting himself to the priestly sacrifice of Jesus.

Born in Yonkers NY and raised in Mt. Vernon, he entered the Order in 1943, after attending the minor seminary at Garrison NY, where he was well-liked for his joyful disposition and fun-loving ways. His first assignment after ordination was as professor and prefect at that same preparatory seminary. After one year his natural friendliness was recognized as a definite asset in a new assignment as vocation director with the responsibility of speaking at high schools and with eighth graders to seek out possible candidates to the order. While living at St. John's NYC, his slowly developing and debilitating condition made its first appearance, but after some convalescence and treatment he was able to begin parish work at Sacred Heart in Yonkers. Friars did not hesitate to test his easy-going nature with practical jokes, because he could enjoy them along with everyone else.

In due time his natural affinity to work with young people, who had always taken to him so readily, brought him an assignment as chaplain at Children's Village in Dobbs Ferry NY, a home for disturbed adolescents. He continued to live at Sacred Heart Friary and these were a satisfying six years. Back at Glencliffe High School as spiritual director, he was able to do well for a time but his bone condition worsened and necessitated permanent rest in the infirmary, and then to the hospital. His ministry became truly priestly, living the mystery of the cross of Jesus as Saint Francis had done. With serene prayerfulness he had shown us how to reflect the suffering of Jesus so that we might die his faithful servant.

+Loran (John) Farrell was born on 27 December 1930 and died on 21 March 1960 at the age of 29 in New York City.

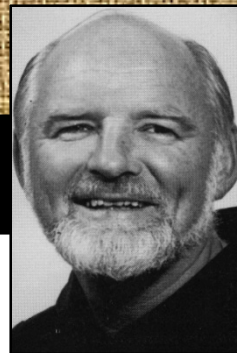


Our friar came out of Ozone Park, NY, and was familiar with the Capuchins early on from his summer visits with his parents and siblings to the Third Order Villa in Garrison. His interest in becoming a Capuchin priest surfaced after graduating high school, and he went for a catch-up year of Latin at St. Lawrence preparatory seminary in Mt. Calvary WI. His novitiate year began at Huntington IN in 1951. He was in the class of novices that overlapped the division of the province in February 1952. In June the full class continued their novitiate in Detroit MI at St. Bonaventure Friary, and then the St. Mary novices went to Milton MA at the end of July. After profession Loran was able to advance a year, but did spend seven years at Mary Immaculate Friary where he studied philosophy and theology. He was one of several extremely talented friars, who would put together an impromptu show of songs, humorous skits, and parodies on human foibles whenever an occasion called for a celebration. A cheerful disposition and positive attitude made him a delightful companion. His prayerful simplicity was always in evidence.

Loran was ordained in 1958 following his third year of theology and immediately began thinking about his priestly future. His desire to be a missionary in Okinawa prompted him to begin the study of Japanese. After completing theology in June, he began in September 1960 the internship year of practical preparation of the newly-ordained for priestly service, while residing at Sacred Heart parish, Yonkers NY. Not too long after, he was hospitalized, complaining of severe headaches. The following months were a time of uncertainty, but the diagnosis of a brain tumor came too late for any treatment. He prayerfully resigned himself to the mysterious will of God and focused on the sacrifice he was being asked to make. His death took place exactly one year and nine months after reaching his dream of priesthood.

The months prior to his ordination had been a time of intense reflection on just what being a priest means. In letters to his family he wrote about his expectations for himself, his awareness of the great privilege that he was to share, and a growing sense of unworthiness. In a way, so unlike his natural optimistic disposition, he seemed concerned that he would not measure up to what the Order, his family, and even his friends expected of him. Serving the Church well and giving joyful witness to God's people was his motivating force. Everyone expected that he would excel as a people's priest, especially among the youth. This delightful example of Franciscan simplicity could easily have become identified with the early friars in the *Fioretta*.

+Lawrence (Eugene) Emmert was born on 15 April 1931 and died on 22 March 2003 at the age of 71 in Newburgh, New York.

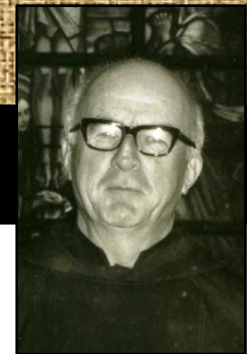


This friar with a delightful wit came to us out of the Bronx NY, and joined the Order in 1960. After graduating from George Washington High School NYC, he first tried religious life with the Trappists in Kentucky but after a year and a half he decided to seek something more active. After a hitch in the US army, he worked for the NY Central RR on their signal systems, did factory work and pumped gas. His last four years as a layman were spent driving a truck for an oil company. In addition to all this experience, he brought with him to the novitiate in Middletown CT, a captivating musical talent with a guitar and lilting voice that could bring a ballad to life, songs which he learned in the army when stationed in the south. Nothing from his former lifetime would be wasted during his years as a Capuchin. With us he added cooking to his expertise, which he did for ten years in our houses of formation. His dependable work-ethic plus his cheerful and always pleasant presence made him a tremendous asset in any community. Parishioners and others who had to deal with the friars found him a joy to meet, but especially workmen and deliverymen, because they felt that he was “one of them”.

Larry could take care of anything that pertained to the upkeep of a building and its necessary operations, including heating and electricity. After 1975 he was retired from the kitchen, possibly by his own request or because he was deemed to be more useful as a friary maintenance man. Whatever the reason, his fraternal spirit and religious obedience would have prompted him to take his sense of humor wherever he was most useful. For the next twenty years his mechanical and engineering abilities were employed in all aspects of maintenance in several friaries: St. John NYC, St. Anthony Hudson, NH, Mary Immaculate in Garrison, Our Lady Queen of Angels NYC, St. Francis novitiate in Garrison, and nine years at St. Fidelis Friary in Interlaken NY where outdoor work on the extensive property and lake front gave him special enjoyment. While at OLQA and Interlaken, his musical talents were also put to use in the parish liturgies, for which ministry he prepared by attending a semester at the New York School of Liturgical Music.

Back at the novitiate in 1992, a very serious heart condition was discovered which necessitated careful monitoring for many years. He moved to the infirmary in Beacon NY during which he made innumerable emergency trips to the hospital. His prayerful serenity and remarkable sense of humor prevailed in the face of a death that could come at any time. Without doubt, his readiness to leave for eternal life with God was an inspiration to all.

+Casimir (Joseph) Walsh was born on 28 July 1914 and died on 27 March 1993 at the age of 78 in Yonkers, New York.

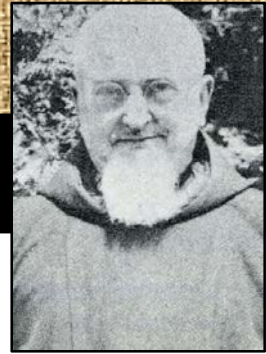


Our friar came to us from Sacred Heart in Yonkers NY, and joined the Order in 1932. Ordained in 1939, he would spend his entire priestly life in Central America, serving the poor *campesinos* in Nicaragua from 1940 and in Honduras from 1968. The first three of his missionary years were as an assistant pastor in Puerto Cabezas and Siuna. For the next twenty-five he would serve as pastor between Siuna, Puerto Cabezas and Bluefields where he was rector of the cathedral. He was tireless in his travels to reach the remote parts of his parish, by mule and jeep but most often along the rivers by boat. Reaching his scattered flock with Mass and the sacraments was his joy, and he worked hard to construct needed chapels and to help the people organize to better their economic and social conditions. From 1948 he served six years as superior regular, and was noted for his exceptional understanding in dealing with the people and the friars, having concern for their welfare in every way. His gentle disposition was disturbed only occasionally, often in a sudden burst of righteous anger that subsided just as quickly. He was also chosen as a councilor to the superior regular both before and after his own service, a testimony to his calm sense of judgment and missionary zeal.

After a final three years in Siuna, he was sent to western Honduras, a territory that had just been placed in the care of the province of Saint Mary. First, however, both hips needed some reconstruction, which would inhibit his ability to ride a mule, the common mode of transport in his new mission. But if he could get to a town or village by jeep and/or by walking, the rough terrain was no obstacle. Also his relationship to the friars as provincial delegate and guardian of the main friary in Nuevo Ocotepeque improved as his hair grew white. His special concern was the young missionaries and the native youth who eventually entered the order. He was affectionately known by the friars, the religious sisters, and the people as *el abuelo*, a grandfather figure who had a special concern for the sick and housebound.

Celebrating his birthday and ordination anniversary after a special Mass took on a special zest with a festive meal and an appropriate cake. A visit from the bishop or other clergy would bring out his great talent as a host, and the opportunity to get the latest news. At times he could be very forceful in handling some difficult situations with lay leaders in the church or with the civil authorities, and *el abuelo* became the white bear, *el oso blanco*. Finally, the hard labor of this faithful servant of the gospel took its toll and he returned home to die in the city from which his travels had begun.

+Innocent (Alphonse) Ferstler was born on 03 May 3 1877 and died on 29 March 1965 at the age of 87 in Cold Spring, New York.



Our friar's personal simplicity characterized his actions and his ministry from the beginning and would have delighted Saint Francis. His hearty laugh signified a lack of pretension, whether he was joking, making observations or conversing with visitors. This Brooklyn born son of German immigrants was guided to the Capuchins by a priest uncle who was acquainted with the friars at St. Michael Church. Innocent had first attended St. Anselm College in New Hampshire and claimed that his uncle had shanghai'd him from the Benedictines by refusing to pay his tuition and shipping him off to Mt. Calvary WI. Nonetheless, his temperament fit the Franciscan style rather than the monastic, and he entered the novitiate in 1900 at St. Bonaventure, Detroit MI. A genuine piety, docility, and cheerfulness were noticeable personality traits. After philosophical and theological studies at St. Francis Friary in Milwaukee WI, he was ordained in 1907 and his first priestly assignment was St. John NYC.

The year 1909 was the beginning of fifteen years at Our Lady Queen of Angels, East Harlem NY, as assistant. He reached the greatest challenge of his young priesthood as pastor in 1921. The people loved this jovial and compassionate man, finding spiritual strength from his powerful German preaching that provided a strong religious motivation for their lives. Also, his solicitude for the brothers as the guardian was quite evident. It seems, however, that administration of parish and friary was not his strength, so in 1924 he moved to St. Bonaventure in Detroit MI as guardian for one year, and then one year assignments in St. Elizabeth and St. Francis in Milwaukee WI. Beginning in 1927 ten years were spent back in OLQA as assistant, his favorite parish where everyone, especially the children, loved this friendly friar. In one year at St. John NYC he became a well-liked confessor to the local diocesan clergy. For seven years from 1938 his German preaching was in great demand at another parish, Our Lady of Sorrows on the Lower East Side NYC.

From 1945 until 1949 Innocent found a new audience for his corny humor as the director of the Third Order Villa, where some of the elderly residents were old friends from the German fraternity in Harlem. He became as one of them and in different ways they gave spiritual support to each other. But he was able to return to OLQA for three more years until final retirement at the house of studies in Garrison, at Mary Immaculate Friary, where he was the comedic balance in the lives of the students until his death.