

1955

## In Tribute to our Father Boniface

Given on the eve of his burial—19 January 1971

On the 14<sup>th</sup> of July, the Feast of Saint Bonaventure, Father Boniface would have celebrated his seventy-third anniversary in the Capuchin Order. No Capuchin from the beginning of our first American foundation at Mt. Calvary, Wisconsin in 1857 until the present has ever worn the brown robe and sandals of the Order for so long. Yet Father Boniface's long years of service alone are of no great consequence. What matters is the use to which this saintly priest put the years that God gave him.

IN REMEMBRANCE

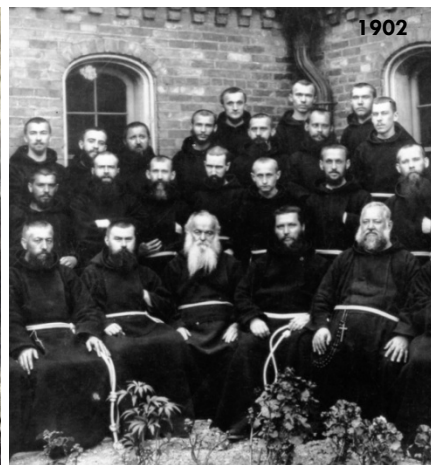
1880-1971

Father Boniface Goldhausen, O.F.M. Cap.

TRIBUTE OFFERED BY JORDAN SULLIVAN, O.F.M. CAP.



1920



1902



1918

1902-Clericcate Years at St. Francis in Milwaukee: [Seated]-Cassian Burgert, Cyril Kufner, Anthony Rottensteiner, Alphonse Baumle, Jerome Henkel; [2] John O'Donovan, Damasus Wickland, Solanus Casey, Boniface, Fabian Fetha, Constantine Leyendeckers; [3] Pius Stutzer, Leo Steinberg, Godfrey Franz, Maurus Ascherl, Cajetan Lorenz, Basil Gummermann, Matthew Schaefer; [4] Venantius Buessing, Salesius Schneewis, Engelbert Rosenmaier.

1918-Mt Calvary: [Seated] Victor Miller, Camillus Becker, Pacificus Raith, Paul Reichertz, Celestine Bittle, Antonine Wilmer, Corbinian Vieracker, Athanasius Koplitz, Matthew Schaefer; [2] Adjutus Heinzelmann, Nervius Semmler, Seraphin Felsky, Fridolin Mayer, Theodore Roemer, Salesius Schneewis, Clement Neubauer, Boniface Goldhausen, possibly Meinrad Henggler, Samuel Timmers; [4] Andrew Jakobs, Lucius Thienel, Raymerius Romin, Aegidius Schaefer, Francis Dlsak, Leo Leins, Roch Ruppel.

### Press Release—21 January 1971

Alois Goldhausen was born in Dernbach, Germany, 04 August, 1880. He was the son of the late John and Anna Zimmermann Goldhausen. At the age of 15 he came to the United States and attended Saint Lawrence Seminary in Mt. Calvary, WI. He entered the Capuchin novitiate on 14 July 1898. Fr. Boniface was ordained to the priesthood on 14 July 1905. His first assignment was to St. Francis parish, Milwaukee, where he served as an assistant for two years.

In 1907, Father Boniface was assigned to teach at Saint Lawrence Seminary, at Mt. Calvary, as a professor of Mathematics where he taught until 1936. During those twenty nine years, he also served as pastor of the neighboring church of Saint Joseph and from 1927 to 1933, as the guardian of the friar community at Mt. Calvary.

For one year Fr. Boniface served as a retreat master at Mt. Alverno Retreat House, Appleton, Wisconsin. From 1937 until 1940, he was stationed at St. Felix Novitiate in Huntington, Indiana.

In 1942, Fr. Boniface was appointed an assistant at the Monastery Church of the Sacred Heart, Yonkers, NY. He remained there until 1950. Fr. Boniface was well known in Yonkers for his preaching and especially as a confessor. People came from far and wide to seek his spiritual advice in the confessional.

Father Boniface was transferred to Mary Immaculate, Garrison, NY in 1950. For twenty one years he served as confessor to the priests and seminarians.

Fr. Boniface Goldhausen, 90, the oldest Capuchin priest in the United States, died unexpectedly in the Peekskill, NY, hospital on Sunday morning, 17 January 1971. He had been hospitalized for about two weeks with a broken hip. He underwent surgery on the afternoon of 16 January and died the following morning.

A Mass of the Resurrection was offered at Sacred Heart Church, Yonkers on 20 January 1971 at 11:00 a.m. Principal concelebrants were Bishop Joseph M. Pernicone; Fr. Dacian Dee, Provincial; Fr. Paul Steffan, Vicar Provincial; and Fr. Jordan Sullivan, Definitor. The eulogy was offered by Fr. Warren Smithbower.

Alois Goldhausen, the future Fr. Boniface, resolved to give himself to God at an early age. His father, a miner, had died when Alois was very young: but by dint of hard work and a little property that the family owned in Dernbach, Germany, his mother managed to provide for the family. Like many young boys, Alois had heard and read of the heroic deeds of foreign missionaries; and he decided that he would become a missionary in Korea. Heroism for God has such an appeal for the young! For Fr. Boniface it was an ideal that was to remain ever fresh.

Realizing the need for guidance in Christ, young Alois went to his pastor. This priest had a friend from seminary days who had become a member of the Capuchin Order in the Westphalian Province in Germany. The fierce religious persecution of the Kulturkampf, however, had driven him from his native land to America while he was still a novice. In the new world he had joined the Capuchins at Mt. Calvary, Wis., and had gone on to ordination as Fr. Lawrence Henn. The pastor explained to Alois the great need for priests in America, and the arrangements that he could make with Fr. Lawrence for him to study at Mt. Calvary.

Alois Goldhausen left his mother, his brothers and his sister, and set off for America. He was then not quite fourteen years of age. He felt desperately lonely going to this strange new country, and he cried. He was making a real sacrifice of himself to God. His years were tender. Still he understood the import of that sacrifice. It was not easy. But he would never waver.

Young Alois seems to have adjusted well and quickly to the American way of life while at Mt. Calvary. Even in his old age he took a certain amount of pride in speaking of his baseball prowess. As he used to tell it, the in-curve with which he used to mow down the opposing batters would have done credit to any pitcher. In the early and dismal days of that club's history, we used to urge him to go down and offer his services to his beloved Mets.

Fr. Boniface was happy and content as a seminarian. In all the years that I knew him I never heard him utter a single word of complaint about this period of his life. He had high praise for his teachers and for the training he received. More than likely he could have found much room for criticism if that had been his bent. But Fr. Boniface was a joyful person who in joy had given himself completely and irrevocably to Christ; and he would live and radiate joy until the end. The joy of Fr. Boniface was a holy joy, a joy in Christ. When we were in his company we were bathed in it, and we were immersed in Christ.

Fr. Boniface spent some thirty years – the most active in his priesthood of almost sixty-six years – as a seminary teacher at Saint Lawrence College. Probably no priest in the century old history of that venerable seminary has had such an impact upon the hundreds of future priests and bishops whom he taught than did Fr. Boniface. The impact was almost always one of joy and dedication to Christ.

When the closing bell sounded on his last seminary class, Fr. Boniface devoted himself to several years of preaching retreats, and then to eight years in the service of the people of Sacred Heart Parish, Yonkers, from the year 1942 until 1950, when he went to his last assignment, Garrison.

Fr. Boniface's years in Garrison probably mean more to us, his brother Capuchins, than did all the years that went before. During his Garrison years we had constantly among us in the person of Fr. Boniface a living embodiment of the Capuchin and priestly ideal for which we were all striving. This is what we should be if we would be faithful to our vocation.



Fr. Andrew Neufeld and Boniface Goldhausen at Monte Alverno Retreat House in Appleton, Wisconsin-1936

“The joy of Fr. Boniface was a holy joy, a joy in Christ. When we were in his company we were bathed in it, and we were immersed in Christ.”

If it can be said that a Capuchin must be a man of prayer, Father Boniface epitomized that image. One seldom entered his room but that he was praying. Even when he had dozed off, he did so with the rosary dangling from his fingers. His Mass painted in moving and vivid reality man's meeting with his Savior, always with the easy familiarity that welcomes Jesus Christ as a brother sharing our nature, who understands our shortcomings, yet always with the devout reverence with which man goes to his Creator.

If Fr. Boniface was old, he was by no means inflexible or set in his ways. Confident that the Holy Spirit was guiding the Church in its work of renewal and adaptation, he welcomed every change that emanated from Christ's authority in the Church. He was quick, even impatient, to acquaint himself with everything that was authentically new. It is very fitting that Fr. Boniface offered the first English language Liturgy that was celebrated in Garrison. To the very end Fr. Boniface was consistently the first member of the community to learn the latest liturgical changes that had come from Rome and to implement them. Like the Church to whom he had given himself, he was very youthful and ready to make new beginnings for Christ.

Fr. Boniface once told me that he was probably the only living person who had seen Father Francis Hass and Father Bonaventure Frey, the two Swiss secular priests who, becoming Capuchins themselves, had brought the Capuchin Order to America in 1857. Now the thread of history has been broken.

Pray for us, Fr. Boniface, as you go to your loving Father in heaven. By your prayers keep us strong in living the sacrifice that we have made of our lives; as we pray for you that God will grant you the boundless joy of one who has always lived joyfully in Christ and now joyfully returns to his true home!

Chapter of 1961-Mary Immaculate Friary-Garrison, NY- [Seated] Gall Higgins, Adrian Holzmeister, Ignatius McCormick, Seraphin Winterroth, Walter O'Brien, Bruno Luechinger; [2] Boniface Goldhausen, Owen Shelley, Richard Donaldson, Gereon Lindsay, Donatus Goetz, Maurice Maurer, Sigmund Hafemann; [3] Anselm Leahy, David Alberici, Barnabas Keck, Godfrey Luechinger, James Fleishmann, Valerian Schreiter, Armand Dasseville, Myles Parsons; [4] Brian Ward, Eric May, Jordan Sullivan, Augustine Konzer, Claude Burns and Bennett Devine.

