

Br. Gondulf Herremas

He was born at Ginneken Nederland on November 13, 1902 and died in the cloister of Izegem on April 10, 1960. Bernard Herremas was born of a Belgian father (Adrian) and a Netherland mother (Dorthea Borner). The day after his birth he was baptized at the parish Church at Ulverhoot, where he received his first communion on March 29, 1914 and his confirmation on November 21, 1914. He received the habit for novitiate on September 15, 1922. He professed his first vows on September 17, 1923 and his final vows on August 15 1928.

Following his military service he was ordained to the sub-diaconate at Izegem on August 26, 1928 and the diaconate on September 22nd, 1928 by Msgr. Eestermans. He was ordained to the priesthood by Msgr. Waffelaert at Brugge on May 25th, 1929. He celebrated his solemn mass at the Capuchin cloister Church at Meersel-Dreef on August 18, 1929. After finishing Theology Br. Gondulf became a teacher at the philosophy school in Aalst on July 23rd, 1930.

On February 13, 1933 because of construction of the cloister, he accompanied the third year students to Izegem where he was responsible in giving them a number of lessons in philosophy. After the academic year he was discharged as lector and went to Edingen. On July 27th, 1939 he was appointed vice-economic at Antwerp. During the 2nd World War he made an eighteen day field march with the 3rd Grenadiers and was made a prisoner of war. An administrative mistake sent him to a camp for French and Walloon soldiers at Stalag X B. This was the reason why he was not freed until April 5th 1941, and he was the last of the mobilized Capuchins to come home on April 7th.

On May 9th 1953 he and Br. Alois left Antwerp and took up residence at Blenheim where he worked for two years as a professor in our minor seminary. On July 4th 1955 he returned to Belgium. He then did some time at the General Curia in Rome helping Br. Placidus in organizing and enriching the General archives. He then returned to Belgium where he was appointed Provincial archivist and librarian, a position he held for 20 years until his death.

