

**January 16**

**Br. Mansuetus Constandt**

Br. Mansuetus was born on December 14<sup>th</sup> 1870 . He entered the Capuchin Order November 13<sup>th</sup> 1902. He began his novitiate October 24<sup>th</sup> 1903 and made perpetual vows on October 24<sup>th</sup> 1907. Three months later he left Izegem for the friary of St Clare in Bruges where they needed a tailor. Two years later, he was assigned as sacristan and mendicant brother at Verviers. He ministered in a number of friaries throughout Belgium as sacristan, tailor or as a “begging brother”.

In 1926 he made his petition to join his brother Br. Peter in Canada. On September 27<sup>th</sup> 1927, this request was granted and after a farewell celebration in Antwerp he left for Canada on November 1<sup>st</sup>. He served as a brother ministering in Blenheim Ontario, and then in St. Boniface and Toutes Aides Manitoba. He did visit Belgium in 1936 and 1939 and on May 28<sup>th</sup> 1949 he returned to Belgium a third time with his brother Br. Peter determined that after a few months of well-deserved holidays to return to the Canadian Custody. But God had other plans.

When the day of the return trip arrived, with grief in his heart, he had to let his brother leave by himself. Sister Sickness had visited him and God had decided to purify his soul in the crucible of suffering. Resigned he accepted this last trial, although his strong constitution fought against the inevitable. Up to the last hours of his life he prayed and offered himself and his suffering in favor of the missionary work of his brother in Canada and for the coming of God’s Kingdom. He died January 16<sup>th</sup>, 1951 at the age of 76 and the 48<sup>th</sup> year of his religious life.

