

Br. Marius Vereecke

Br. Camiel Vereecke was born in Essen April 3, 1897 and died in Bruges, Belgium, January 29, 1982, strengthened by the Sacrament of the Sick. He was the son of Aemilius Vereecke and of Nathalia Meyers. He was invested as a lay-brother on October 23rd 1920 and started his novitiate on April 22, 1921. He made his first profession on April 24, 1922 and his Solemn profession on May 3rd, 1925. On November 22, 1920, he went to Spy for his training as a lay-brother and from there on January 26, 1921 to Edingen.

Prior to his departure for Canada on October 10, 1928 he worked in Aalst, then Edingen (October 22, 1923), then Izegem (September 4, 1924), then Herentals (December 1, 1924) and again in Izegem (August 1, 1925) where he served as cook. Br. Marius was one of the early pioneers in Canada serving in Blenheim until his return to Belgium on April 29, 1936. He then served as cook in Ieper, Bruges-St. Clare as well as sacristan in Leuven. In 1940 he served at the seminary in Aalst and later on as questor and porter in various houses.

There is a story told about Br. Marius in the Flemish province that while stationed in Isegem he asked permission from the provincial Br. Martinian to go and see the new monastery in Boom. Permission was given but before he had the opportunity to go, he received a letter of obedience sending him to Boom. Instead of just dropping in for a visit, he stayed there for more than 18 years.

His memorial card summed up his life in an excellent way, “God allowed Marius a long life which was spent in serving God and the people. God called him to be a Capuchin Franciscan. What he had learned as a young religious, kept him steadfast in later life. The example of our saintly Capuchin brothers remained with him all his life. His life was simple but solid. The rosary was his daily greeting to Mary. Since the liturgical renewal, the Prayer of the Church had become precious to him.

Both in Canada as well as in Belgian, his ministry as questor, cook, sacristan and brother friar made a tremendous impact on the people he walked with. He had served as long as he was able to, full of dedications, with a joyful heart, as a faithful follower of St. Francis. Dear Br. Marius we thank you for your good example and your untiring zeal.

