

**Br. Alois Duerloo**

Br. Alois (Frans) was born at Essen on May 30<sup>th</sup> 1905 and died in the cloister at Meerle on May 2<sup>nd</sup> 1960. He was the son of Adrian and Ludovika Van Gool, a nephew of the Rev. Chrisostomus and an uncle of Fr. Gustaf Van Effen.

He entered novitiate on September 15, 1924 and did his first profession in 1925 and final profession in 1928. He was ordained as a sub-deacon on May 25<sup>th</sup> 1929, as a deacon on June 14<sup>th</sup> 1930 and to the priesthood on May 30<sup>th</sup> 1931. He served in the Franciscan College at Doornik and in 1934, after studies in theology he requested to go to Canada. But he was asked to serve at Brugge, Lommel, Boom, Herentals and Meerle. In 1953 his superiors asked him if he was still willing to go to Canada. With this Br. Alois was fulfilling an old dream and left from the port of Antwerp, together with his friend Br. Gondulf, aboard the steamer Beaver Lodge and landed in Montreal on May 19<sup>th</sup>. From there they traveled to Blenheim arriving May 21<sup>st</sup>. Immediately after his arrival, Br. Alois was chosen to be superior at St. Francis Monastery in Blenheim (May 22<sup>nd</sup>). In June of 1955, he became a patient at Beck Memorial Sanatorium in Byron, Ontario near London Ontario. He was there for some time before he returned to Belgium. He left Montreal on October 17<sup>th</sup> 1956 aboard the "Seven seas" and landed in Rotterdam on October 27<sup>th</sup>.

After a few days off in his birth place, Br. Alois was sent to Ieper where his arrival had been anticipated since July 31<sup>st</sup>. On August 7<sup>th</sup> 1958, he was named superior at Beernem. A year later he requested to be discharged of his obligations because of poor health and was placed at Meerle. His doctor formed the opinion that he had a weak heart and that rest would be best for him. However Br. Alois knowingly refused to follow doctor's orders and his condition became more precarious. He died suddenly on May 2<sup>nd</sup> 1959. He was found in his cell, lifeless in his chair. The funeral was on May 6<sup>th</sup> and he was buried in the Cloister of Maria Park.

It can be said of Br. Alois that he possessed a Franciscan spirit and was a hard-working priest. His health did not give him the strength to live and pursue the things he wanted to accomplish. But he did not let the opportunity go by without giving his best in serving others. As superior he was loved by his brothers living with him. He often said in laughter "Indeed if we had to live as severe as our forefathers, there would be few who would celebrate their golden anniversary".



May 02

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Br. Alois died unexpectedly but not unready. In his cold hands was a rosary, where the cross hung in the form of a key, where upon it was written, "The key to heaven". The cross was a symbol of his life and the rosary the proof of his great love for Mary, to who he had given his whole life.

