

May 18

Br. Rupert Gemert

Br. Rupert was born in Holland on September 4, 1885 and there is very little information about him. We know that he also served as a missionary in India. He arrived in Canada on September 26, 1930. He served as vicar in Toutes Aides beginning December 3, 1932. He was a Capuchin who observed in all of the rigor the Rule of St. Francis with regard to poverty, piety and charity. Somewhat impractical he wore the same light habit and sandals both in summer and winter, often shaking from the extreme cold. Edified by his conduct and mortifications, the local people commented: "If he does not go to heaven, none of us will go".

Br. Rupert's Belgian confreres were not so edified by him since he attributed to himself the title of Pastor to the missions of Meadow Portage and Brebéuf causing friction with the Pastor. Unhappy in his situation, he began to write numerous letters to Bishops and Archbishops of many countries asking to be incardinated in their diocese. On October 10 1934, he returned to his province in Holland. He died in Bostia, Corsica on May 18, 1937.

