

May 26th

Br. Joseph Francis Rauch

At the time of his birth, the Rauch family was residing in the village of Valders, Wisconsin, where Joey Francis' father practiced medicine. The family soon moved to Manitowoc. After finishing grade school and graduating from St. Lawrence and Scholasticate, Joey Francis entered the novitiate at Huntington.

Joey Francis had a great love for classical music and was an accomplished pianist. He was an excellent student with a great memory for detail. He also had a facility for languages, especially Latin and Greek. His one regret in life was that he was never chosen to go on for higher studies.

Throughout his life, Joey Francis had a series of relatively short assignments. He taught Latin at St. Lawrence, served as a retreat director in Appleton and Saginaw, was on loan to the Capuchins of Central Canada where he taught at Mount Alverno Minor Seminary in Orangeville Ontario, served the Secular Franciscans in Huntington, assisted in the library at Marathon, and taught at Baraga High School in Marquette where he also served as chaplain of the Knights of Columbus. The last 16 years of his life was spent in parish ministry, first on Mackinac Island and then in Brimley, Michigan, before Joey offered his services to the Diocese of Peoria.

His last assignment was as pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Campus, Illinois. A severe cold led to double pneumonia for which he was admitted to the hospital in Pontiac, Illinois. When his condition worsened he was transferred to the intensive care unit of Peoria where he passed away. He died in 1989 at age 59, after 40 years of religious life and 32 years in the priesthood. The people he served had a genuine love for Joey Francis. He was generous, sincere, caring and religious. He is buried at Mt. Calvary.

