

**Br. Gerulf De Bodt**

He was born at Outer in East Flanders on June 10, 1903 and named Alphonse. At the age of 19, he entered novitiate September 15, 1922. He made first profession on September 17, 1923 and solemn profession on September 17, 1926. He was ordained a priest on May 25, 1929 by Msgr. Waffelaert in the Cathedral of Brugge. After several months recuperating from poor health he was sent on July 23 1930 to Edingen where he was a preacher until he left for Canada on July 31, 1931.

Br. Gerulf spent six years as a missionary in Canada. He served in the following places: St. Boniface (1931-1934), Blenheim April 16, 1934 and at Toutes Aides (October 1934 - September 1937). In connection with his work at St. Boniface and Blenheim, little is known. About his work in Toutes Aides, he wrote several articles in the Franciscan Standard that shed light on the hard life of our pioneers in the wild and abandoned territories. Toutes Aides was a typical far-west Mission with remote outposts at Meadow Portage, Brébeuf, Plumas and Tenly. He worked with Br. Peter in the construction of the church in Toutes Aides. He had a marvelous voice for preaching and singing the Latin liturgy. For those who were musically inclined he taught them how to play the organ and he humbly taught catechism to the children. He was regularly on the muddy roads 25 days of the month to visit Catholics who lived far away and during the winter he traveled by dogsled to different outposts to celebrate holy mass and the sacraments. This heavy work was too much for his poor health and he left Toutes Aides on September 17, 1937.

His longing for mission work did not leave him so several months after his return to Belgium; he received permission from his superiors to go to the Congo. He stayed there for 9 years until February 15, 1947 when he returned again to Belgium for health reasons. After a short stay in the friary of Aalst he was stationed in Edingen. He died in 1950, the 48<sup>th</sup> year of his life and 22<sup>nd</sup> year of priesthood. Br. Gerulf is remembered as a kind hearted brother.

