

**Br. Leopold Nieuwlandt (Cyrinus)**

Br. Leopold was born on January 8, 1912 in Aalst Belgium, the son of Isidoor Nieuwlandt and Josephine Spaars. He was invested as a Capuchin on September 15, 1930. He made his first profession of vows on September 17, 1931 and three years later, solemn profession on September 17, 1937. He was given the religious name of Cyrinus.

He was ordained a priest on May 22, 1937 in Bruges, Belgium by Bishop Henricus Lamiroy. He was then sent to Herentals to study Sacred Eloquence. On July 27, 1939 he would be assigned to Bruges at Ste. Clara as preacher. With the German invasion of Belgium Br. Leopold fled into the south of France on May 15, 1940. Seven months later he was back in Antwerp as Secretary to the Provincial Delegate of the Third Order (1940-1944) and Director (1943-1948) of men of the Third Order.

On December 11, 1948 he departed for Canada. His first assignment would take him to St. Boniface, Manitoba as a preacher until 1952. He would then work at St. Mary's parish in Blenheim, Ontario. From 1956 to 1959 he would serve the Capuchin Province as Bursar and promoter of the Vocation Fund. His love of writing was manifested in his editions of "Sandal Prints" and articles in local newspapers and the "Detroit Gazette". He even had a newsletter called "Kit" (Keeping in Touch) meant as a link between himself, his family, confreres, old parishioners and friends in Europe, Canada and the United States. He was also vital in arranging donations for the Capuchin Minor Seminary in Blenheim and for the new one in Orangeville, Ontario.

Br. Leopold then became pastor of St. Anne of the Lakes in Erieau, Ontario with a mission church of St. Mary of the Angels in Pardoville, Ontario which he founded in 1962. In 1967, he became pastor of Notre Dame parish in Comber, Ontario. In 1971, he lived briefly at Mount Alverno before departing for St. John's Newfoundland as co-pastor at the Basilica of St. John the Baptist. From eastern Canada, he was then assigned for one year as co-pastor at St. Augustine of Canterbury Manitoba with a mission of Carberry.

From 1973-1977 he would serve in Souris, Manitoba as pastor of St. Mary's with a mission in Melita, Manitoba. In 1978, he accepted St. Hyacinth parish in Portage-la-Prairie as pastor with a mission in Austin, Manitoba. His final assignment was in Russell, Manitoba where he died of a heart attack on December 23, 1978.



## DECEMBER 23

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Br. Leopold was a well organized person and the provincial found on his desk his will and testament indicating that everything belonged to the parish except his Cuban cigars and two cases of Chateau Neuf du Pape wine which belonged to the Capuchins.

The friars celebrated his many years of brotherhood by smoking his cigars and by toasting him for a last time with his wine before burying him on a cold winter morning at -40F degrees below zero in the Capuchin plot of St. Boniface's cemetery.

