Br. Lucidius Pooters

Luciaan was born in Antwerp, Belgium on December 29, 1910 the son of Joseph and Aphonsina Fret. He studied elementary schooling with the brothers of the Institute Nieberding and high school in the famous Jesuit Berchmans College in Antwerp. Although a Fleming, he spoke French fluently. Before entering the Capuchin Order, he worked as a mechanic. On September 15, 1931 he was accepted as a lay-brother at the Novitiate in Aalst receiving the religious name of Lucidius. He made his temporary vows in Aalst on September 17th 1932.

Shortly thereafter he was transferred to Izegem to be trained as a cook. This Capuchin Seminary of Theology had some 40 students and a total fraternity of some 60 friars. In those days there were at least eight to nine lay brothers in the Izegem friary. On April 25th 1935, he was moved for a few months to Meersel as cook and on September 9th, 1935 to cook in Bruges, Boeveriestraat. On September 17, he made his solemn vows in Meersel.. He was then appointed sacristan in Bruges St. Claire.

On October 16, 1936 Br. Peter Constandt and his brother Br. Mansuetus and Br. Lucidius Pooters left for Canada. They took the train for Cherbourg, France where they boarded the "Empress of Britain", a giant transatlantic steamer of 42,000 tons which made it to Quebec's harbor in five days. His first assignment in Canada was in Blenheim Ontario where he remained for 13 years in the service of the friary and of St. Francis Minor Seminary. Later on he would serve mostly as cook and handyman in Princeton and Georgetown Ontario, as well as in Toutes-Aides and Cayer Manitoba.

He received his Canadian Citizenship on February 2, 1955 something he was really proud of. He is well remembered for his sense of humor and stories that after a while he himself believed to be true. Once in Blenheim, he phoned the local grocery store and asked if they had Prince Albert in a can (chewing tobacco). When they answered "yes" he jokingly told them to let him out of the can. He is well remembered as a simple, helpful confrere and named as the best chauffeur in the land. He had worked in Canada for 29 years.

Br. Lucidius Pooters

On his return to Belgium on May 21, 1960, he served in Aalst, Bruges St. Claire in domestic work and as porter. From time to time, he suffered a nervous breakdown and he would then go for a few days of cure with the Alexian Brothers in Grimbergem. On December 11, 1984 he moved to Pandje in Izegem, a retirement home for elderly and sick friars.

He was 74 years old and one of the first resident of this new home. Still while in poor health he remained the cheerful confrere who loved to tell stories. In October 1995, Br. Lucidius was hospitalized in the clinic of the Sacred Heart in Roeselare, Belgium. On October 27th 1995, he was taken by the Lord. He was buried with a funeral mass in the monastery church of Izegem on the Feast of All Souls.

BR LUCIDIUS POOTERS
29 December 1910 – 27 October 1995

Rest in Peace