

September 01

Br. Laurent Galipeau

Br. Laurent (Joseph) Galipeau was born on August 13th 1907 at Riviere-des-Prairies Quebec, with Joseph Galipeau his father and Arthemise Lahaise his mother. He studied at the Capuchin Seraphic College from 1923 to 1930. He entered the Capuchin novitiate on June 23, 1930, made first vows on June 24th 1931 and solemn vows on June 24th 1934. He made his philosophical and theological studies at La Reparation in Pointe-aux-Trembles, Montreal. He was ordained to the priesthood on October 31st 1937, by Msgr. Deschamps, auxiliary Bishop of Montreal. Br. Laurent gave to Canada the first 13 years of his priestly ministry. He was a preacher at Lac Bouchette, Ristigouche and Cacouna. He then became a missionary for one year in Brébeuf, Manitoba in 1942. He was then vicar at St. Charles Limoilou Quebec from 1948 to 1950 and at the parish of St. Francis of Assisi in Ottawa, Ontario from 1950 to 1951. He was then a missionary in India from 1952 to 1981.

He loved the poor. He always had the right words to put them at ease and give them courage. But he enjoyed working with children. He loved them whole heartily and they in return appreciated his kindness. A zealous pastor, and hard worker, he loved what he was doing with a heart of gold. He believed in personal contacts and nothing would stop him from meeting his flock, celebrating mass, doing catechism or simply just meeting and talking to them.

He knew all of them well. This simplicity and human contact with people is a trait that continues to develop and be seen all of his life as the key to a successful apostolate. He was a Good Shepherd who knew his Sheep. And as a Shepherd, he went after the lost Sheep. He would not accept anyone to say: "Our Christians have abandoned us!" He would respond: "No, we are the ones who have abandoned them!"

Br. Laurent died on September 1st 1981 in Varanasi, India. He is buried in India near Msgr. Jerome Malenfant.

