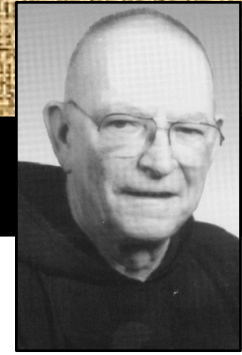


+Roderick (Francis) Brennan was born on 04 February 1920 and died on 01 October 2000 at the age of 80 in Newburgh, New York.



Our friar came to us from the sidewalks of 117th Street in East Harlem, NYC. By contrast he would spend the majority of his priestly life in the rural and mountainous villages and towns of Nicaragua and Honduras. His interest in the Order began at Our Lady Queen of Angels parish, where his parents were among the Irish minority in a heavily German immigrant parish. Roderick once stated that at home his mother often spoke highly of the Capuchins. He attended the seminary in Garrison, entered the novitiate at Huntington in 1937, and studied philosophy in Garrison and theology in Marathon. Always hardworking and dedicated to his education and priestly preparation, he was ordained in 1945. Within a year his missionary service in Nicaragua began, lasting eighteen years in Bluefields, where he was pastor in Siuna and chaplain to the Nicaraguan military, then two years in Esteli, until 1966 when he was among the first friars to settle in Nueva Ocotepeque, Honduras, the province's new field of mission activity, where he labored for seven years.

In every place he involved himself very closely with the people in their humble circumstances, was an indefatigable pastor in bringing his priestly service to the remotest parts of the mission territory, but also working to better their economic and social conditions. This was done by helping them establish food cooperatives, clinics, and centers where they came to learn better agricultural methods and improved household care. In Esteli, where he was one of two friars, the people of Jalapa willingly helped him build classrooms for catechism instructions and a convent for the sisters who came to serve in the town. His convictions about the sacrifices a missionary must make for his people never wavered and he expected others to be just as equally committed. His preference, however, was to set an example for new missionaries, rather than be explicitly directive. After twenty-seven years, he brought that same dedication in 1973 to his work in the province.

For eight months he was a hospital chaplain and then administrator of Our Lady of Montserrat parish in Stamford CT. After the community moved into a larger church building purchased from a protestant denomination, he became the pastor of this largely immigrant congregation from every country in Latin America until 1993. From personal contacts Roderick was able to arrange legal assistance regarding their residency and other personal difficulties. Five years of preaching Spanish language missions and retreats preceded his temporary return to Nicaragua. But poor health demanded his recall and this authentic priest and friar soon died of congestive heart failure.

+Thomas March was born on 15 July 1949 and died on 03 October 1997 at the age of 48 in East Patchogue, New York.

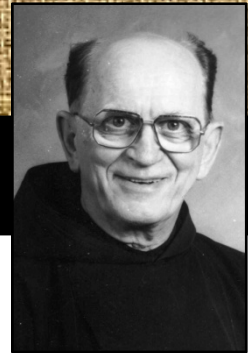


Our friar, born in Jamaica NY, was raised on a farm in Valley Stream NY and graduated from Blessed Sacrament School, spent three years at McClancy Memorial High, where he was taught by the Brothers of the Sacred Heart. Sensing a divine call to become one of them, he finished high school at their Juniorate in Metuchen NJ, and entered the novitiate in 1968. There his talent for organization soon became apparent, especially in the planning of liturgies. After profession, Thomas taught at Bishop Reilly High School and at the same time pursued a degree in education at St. John's University in Jamaica NY. He had no thought of becoming a priest at this time, but in the summer of 1970, he became acquainted with two Capuchin seminarians who impressed him by their enthusiasm for a life of priestly ministry. With all the necessary permissions, his novitiate with the Capuchins began at Milton MA in 1972. Upon the completion of his studies at St. Anthony in Hudson NH and at Maryknoll Theological Seminary, Thomas was ordained in 1978.

His first priestly experience came in the mission territory of Guam where he spent two years in parish work. Then in 1980, the province called on his teaching experience for use in the formation program at Mary Immaculate, Garrison, and after one year he assumed the additional responsibility of guardian to the community at the age of 33. His extraordinary ability to organize the community toward a common purpose was challenged by the diversity of personalities among both young and old friars. In spite of his youth everything moved toward a common purpose, with special attention to the liturgical life of the community. Ample opportunities were provided for community celebrations to enhance the joy that he felt should permeate fraternal life. In 1990, after two years on the parish staff at St. Joseph in East Patchogue NY, he was appointed the pastor and guardian.

In this position, Thomas used his varied talents in developing a parish community that would be welcoming to all, both young and old, those who attended Mass regularly, those who had become only occasional visitors, and those who had become estranged from their faith. This was effectively done by establishing various commissions from the laity to concentrate on specific areas of pastoral life, namely, liturgy, catechetics, sacramental preparation, and especially a social service ministry. He set the atmosphere himself with his notable homiletic and musical gifts that encouraged liturgical creativity. Everything suddenly ended during a parish celebration for his 25th religious jubilee, when he collapsed during the festivities and died instantly.

+Francis Liermann was born on 30 March 1921 and died on 06 October 2000 at the age of 79 in Beacon, New York.

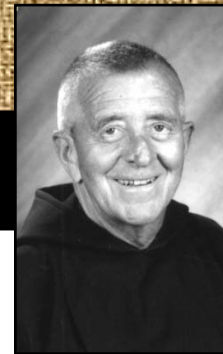


Our friar, born in Carnegie PA, graduated from St. Paul in Canton OH, and was urged by a priest to enter the diocesan minor seminary. After just six months, well aware of his scholastic limitations, he decided to pursue what he had always intended, namely, to enter religious life as a brother. His interest focused on the Capuchins, who immediately accepted him as a candidate at Mary Immaculate Friary, Garrison. The seminary rector gave him a sterling recommendation as being of exemplary character, pious, prayerful, sincere, and very well motivated, an assessment that would describe him for his entire religious life. Accepted as a candidate in 1936 at just fifteen years of age, he would remain in Garrison until he was seventeen before going to Detroit MI for his novitiate. For thirty years the friars knew him as Brother Angelus, until he resumed the use of his baptismal name in the 1960s.

His quiet, prayerful, and almost contemplative disposition, coupled with his conscientious attention to any work assigned him and a unique talent with a sewing machine, found great fulfillment in providing the friars with new habits and accessories as the provincial tailor. His work would begin in the novitiate at Huntington IN for his six years, and move to Detroit for two years. Angelus returned to Huntington in 1947 until the province divided in 1952. The tailor shop found a new home at the novitiate in Milton MA for nine years, and was moved again to St. Anthony Friary in Hudson NH until 1969. Francis did not just spend all day in the tailor shop. He was often called upon to substitute for the cook and porter, which he did willingly and well. Then the opportunity was given him to try something new in St. John's NYC as sacristan for one year. With no one else available, however, he returned to the tailor shop in 1970 at its new location at St. Pius X Friary in Middletown CT until another brother was ready to replace him in 1978.

This reverent and dedicated friar took on the responsibilities of sacristan at St. John's in NYC, a day-long task in this busy place. After three years he moved on to Sacred Heart, Yonkers, also as sacristan but with time to fill in as porter and part-time cook. A final tour of duty at the novitiate in Garrison NY as cook lasted fifteen years, where he also served as vicar of the community. Never known to say anything unkind about anyone or draw attention to himself, with very reluctant cooperation on his part, the friars arranged a public celebration of his diamond religious jubilee in 1998. The following year a heart complication brought him to the infirmary in Beacon NY, where this faithful servant of God prayerfully awaited entry into eternal glory.

+Joseph Shea was born on 31 July 1930 and died on 10 October 2002 at the age of 72 in Clermont, Florida.

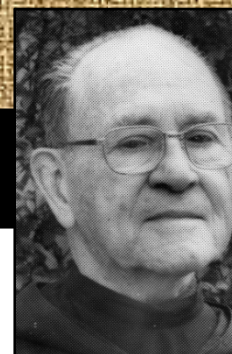


Our friar was born in Medford MA but attended St. Clement elementary and high school in Somerville MA. In his senior year he joined the track team that triggered a life-long passion for foot-race competition. After graduation he joined the U.S. Navy and served for two years. While living in Scituate MA, where his family had moved, he was employed with the Department of Commerce as a technician in the weather bureau. His interest began to focus on a vocation as a Franciscan priest, and he applied to the St. Joseph Seraphic Seminary in Calicoon NY, which he attended for two years. Before entering the novitiate, he tested a vocation to the monastic life with the Trappists in Spencer MA. After he decided against becoming a monk, his application for re-admission to the Friars Minor was denied. However, the recommendation from the rector at Calicoon was very positive when Joseph asked to join the Capuchins. His novitiate began shortly after his 30th birthday in 1960. Upon completion of philosophy studies at Hudson NH and theology at Garrison NY, Joseph was ordained in 1967.

As a deacon he had already received permission to begin preparations for a career as a chaplain in the United States Navy, which would begin after his ordination. A transfer to the Marine Corps soon followed his deployment to a combat unit in Vietnam. In every place where his military assignments brought him he competed in local and national marathons. Indeed, his superb physical condition allowed him to keep up with the daily routine of the troops on their own level. The respect that Joseph received from the rank and file was the substance of comments made in a report to the Military Ordinariate by his commanding officer, who testified to his faithful performance of all priestly responsibilities. Aside from his conviction that spiritual and physical health was connected, our brother claimed that *running may not add years to my life, but it certainly has added life to my years*. After ten years he became a member of the inactive reserve, worked at St. John's for two years and as hospital chaplain in Stamford CT for one year before re-enlisting in the active reserve, to spend another ten years as chaplain until his retirement in 1990.

After four years again at Stamford and two years at St. Joseph in East Patchogue, he requested and received permission to live outside a religious house for three years. As a senior friar his residence upon return in 2001 was at St. Clare in Yonkers. The following year in Florida, while training for an upcoming triathlon and totally unaware that he had left a protected lane, he turned into oncoming traffic and was killed outright.

+Bonaventure (Maurice) Fitzgerald was born on 04 December 1894 and died on 13 October 1974 at the age of 79 in Yonkers, New York.

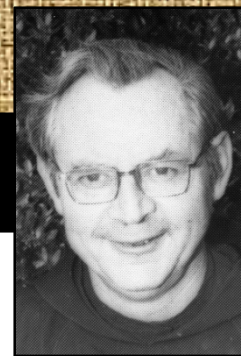


Our friar, born in Bridgeport Ct, joined the Congregation of the Holy Cross at the age of 19. After his scholastic preparations, he taught in several colleges over four years and finally two years at Notre Dame University in South Bend IN. Not able to pursue a priestly vocation in the Congregation, Brother Alfred, as he was known to them, was encouraged to seek priesthood with the Dominicans because of his teaching background. But he had already made contact with the Capuchins, about whom he had read and was impressed. His hope was to transfer directly to us, but the superiors of the Congregation deferred for several years in an attempt to dissuade him, hoping not to lose such an excellent religious and qualified teacher. Eventually a dispensation was allowed and, after a period of time in the lay state, Maurice entered the Capuchin novitiate in Detroit MI at the age of 30 in 1925, and thereafter was known as Bonaventure. He already had degrees in accounting, economics, and business administration, with courses in Latin and philosophy.

After profession he began theological studies in Marathon, made solemn vows in 1929, and by special dispensation was ordained sub-deacon and deacon in rapid order. His priestly ordination took place in June 1930 when he was 35 years old. He would spend his first nine years as assistant pastor at Sacred Heart in Yonkers NY, where this revered priest with the gentle manner became known for his great concern for the sick and his remarkable appeal to young people. Conscripted to work on the Cowl, a Capuchin magazine, he became familiar with every aspect of the printing business. When his parish experience convinced him that many adults were ignorant of basic Catholic beliefs, he began a publishing house that he called the Catholic Information Society, which would specialize in small pamphlets on individual doctrinal topics. They would soon be available in churches throughout the country.

Moved to St. John's NYC in 1939, the C.I.S. became a fixture alongside the friary for twenty-eight years, and Bonaventure became well-known in the General Post Office where he mailed out thousands of pamphlets every day. In 1967 the entire operation was re-located to a new facility designed by Bonaventure himself and located behind St. Pius X friary in Middletown CT. The building was turned over to the parish as a catechetical center when this indefatigable, hard-working friar was forced to retire because of a developing throat cancer. For a time he was a delightful presence in Sacred Heart friary, inspiring all by the graceful acceptance of his speaking difficulty. Soon this faithful priest was hospitalized to await his call home in quiet prayerfulness.

+Bennett (James) Devine was born on 5 April 1917 and died on 23 October 1978 at the age of 61 in Beacon, New York.



Our friar, born in New York City and raised in Yonkers NY, was known in the Order with affection as “Big Ben” because of his tall and robust frame with a personality and voice to match. He made an impressive figure as a preacher, which was the ministry that he exercised for most of his life. After graduating from Saint Mary’s school, he entered the Seraphicate in Garrison NY, where he excelled in public speaking, especially debates, poetry reading, and plays. When invested with the habit in 1935, he received the name ‘Adam’, which was changed to ‘Bennett’ on his own request. After his studies of philosophy and theology he was ordained in 1943. His first assignment was as parish assistant for one year at St. Elizabeth in Milwaukee WI and then to St. John NYC where his preaching style was perfected. Back in Milwaukee as a home missionary who specialized in retreats, he found that the climate aggravated a sinus and bronchial condition, so he returned to Sacred Heart, Yonkers NY which became the home of the preaching band, with Bennett as the superior.

In 1956 the province’s home missionaries obtained a house of their own in Fultonville NY where Bennett would prove to be a competent engineer in overseeing renovations on the buildings and around the property. In 1964 he received the opportunity to visit our mission territories, Guam and Okinawa, where for nine months he gave retreats to our friars, to some lay groups, and to American military personnel. His return to Fultonville lasted less than two years, until the province closed the friary and moved the missionaries to our friary at Interlaken NY. Bennett was the superior there also, but there was some curtailment in his preaching, except as pastor of the local parish, but at the friary his responsibilities included maintenance man, cook, and librarian. His priestly duties included regional assistant to the Secular Franciscans and counselor at Cayuga Family Services, for which he prepared himself with courses at Iona College in New Rochelle NY, a weekly trip he made for many months. Also Bishop Joseph Hogan of Rochester appointed him as his personal delegate to the Pre-Cana Program of the diocese.

By 1973, finding himself a bit over-extended, Bennett was pleased to take on a more concentrated work as the senior chaplain at Mattawan State Hospital and Fishkill Correctional Facility. Relaxing with his pipe, he enjoyed sharing his experiences with the friars at Garrison on his day off. In his five years, working untiringly, he gained the respect of the staff for his obvious interest in his charges. At the end of one very busy day, Big Ben died as he would have wished. His generous heart just gave out.

+Godfrey (James) Luechinger was born on 15 September 1915 and died on 25 October 1987 at the age of 72 in Patchogue, New York.



Our friar, born in Lindenhurst NY, came to us from St. Michael's parish in Brooklyn and went to the Glenclyffe Seraphicate for five years, graduating in 1933. He was always a very good student, showing a fierce determination to succeed in studies, at sports and with work assignments. A suspected heart problem delayed his entrance into the novitiate until 1934. Excelling through his years of study, he was ordained in 1941. For ten years as professor and prefect at the minor seminary, this respected teacher was very approachable and generous with his time. He was especially respected for his dignified priestly manner. This dignity, however, could be compromised as he watched or joined in the sports activities of the students. For him sports competition developed character and he did not tolerate anything less than full effort. In 1952 he found his spirit of obedience challenged by the call to surrender the work that he had grown to love. Yet he undertook the responsibility of the director of clerics and lector in the house of studies with his usual passion. Before many days had passed, his characteristic good humor returned.

In 1955 Godfrey would begin three years at the novitiate in Milton MA where this holy man revealed a great flexibility in forming the young men who had joined us as novices. A life-long preference for pastoral ministry would take hold in 1958 when for six years he became the pastor and guardian at St. Michael's, his home parish. He remained on staff for three more years as spiritual director of the parish high school. His fraternal spirit was again called to service at the novitiate at Milton MA, this time as guardian. For six years he was the gentle model of Capuchin life within the community and in apostolic ministry. His contemplative spirit was very content in the quiet environment, with ample time to oversee the upkeep of the property and to maintain a flower and vegetable garden.

Two years of parish life at Sacred Heart, Yonkers, proved disappointing when the teaching of high school religion became distressing. In addition this energetic and driven priest was slowed down by two hip replacements and a double coronary valve implant. A return to Milton as guardian for two years helped some, until he could resume parish ministry at St. Joseph in Portland ME. He focused his attention on the school children and the elderly sick. While here, however, this good friar and exemplary priest, intense in all he did, developed a deep-seated anxiety. He welcomed a move to St. Joseph in East Patchogue, where in only a few weeks he would collapse one Sunday after celebrating Mass, and within the week his soul had attained eternal rest.

+Peter Reilly was born on 06 December 1921 and died on 26 October 2004 at the age of 82 in Newburgh, New York.



Our friar, born in County Armagh, Northern Ireland, was educated through the second year of high school by the Christian Brothers. He began work as a stock boy with F. W. Woolworth's in London, until he went to serve in the Royal Navy throughout the Second World War. In 1943, at 21 years of age, he was married at St. Mary's Church, London. After the war he returned to work as the sales manager, had another tour in the Navy during the Korean conflict and until 1960 was manager of the entire store. Meanwhile, it was at this time that he permanently separated from his wife in order for her to re-marry. Peter decided to begin a new life in the United States, and found employment in Chicago as an assistant buyer in one large retail store, and then in another rose to the position of National Sales Manager within five years. Becoming acquainted with the Capuchins, he sought advice about the possibility of a religious vocation and was admitted to the novitiate at St. Lawrence friary, Milton MA, in 1974. At that time his marital status precluded the taking of vows in the First Order, so he professed private vows as a tertiary brother.

For nine years Peter had various assignments at Sacred Heart in Yonkers, St. John's NYC, and St. Pius X in Middletown CT, and then four years at Bl. Sacrament parish in Manchester NH. He would serve faithfully as sacristan, porter, cook, and in every area of general maintenance, displaying a joyful disposition and an exemplary spirit of prayer and obedience. He proved to be especially valuable in parishes, and attained a great respect from the people for his easy and gentlemanly manner of dealing with them. Bolstered by some laudatory recommendations from each superior and community where he had worked, the province petitioned for the necessary dispensations for his admission to the First Order. He began his novitiate in 1983 at the age of 63, took first vows the following year, and made final profession in 1987. As a Capuchin his first assignment was to St. Joseph Friary in Portland, ME.

Peter, however, found that his advancing years were presenting him with pain, especially arthritis of the knee and shoulder. Superiors began to relieve him of responsibilities for cooking and strenuous cleaning. His contribution would continue in his direct contacts with the people after he was sent to the Middletown friary in 1988. He was always widely respected for his joyful, generous spirit and maturity of judgment. He spent one year at St. Clare's to rest, and then welcomed back at Portland. Finally retired in Yonkers in 1995, he lived in prayerful contentment until declining health called for constant care at Beacon NY, where his smiling Irish eyes were soon closed in death.