

Br. Ivo Tommeleyn ofm. Cap. (Sigismund)

Br. Ivo was born on October 2nd 1927 in Iper, Belgium diocese of Bruges. He was the oldest of six children and his parents were Edward and Rachel (Duprez). He graduated from high school in Aalst, a school taught by the Flemish Capuchins. On September 15, 1948 he entered Novitiate and then studied philosophy for three years in Brugge. He made first profession on September 17, 1949 and solemn profession on November 29, 1954 and took the religious name Sigismund.

After this, he was conscripted into the army for twenty-one months. He then finished four years of theology with the Capuchins at Izegem. On August 7, 1955 Br. Ivo Tommeleyn was ordained a Capuchin priest in his hometown of Ieper and celebrated his first mass in the presence of his parents and family.

In 1956, the Belgian Provincial asked if Br. Ivo would like to go to Canada for just a couple years. He was assigned to teach high school students in St. Francis Minor Seminary in Blenheim, Ontario. He taught for two years and then was assigned to Pelee Island as pastor for two years. He was then transferred to Manitoba where he served an Indian reserve at Water Hen, a German speaking community at Magnet and a French speaking community at Toutes Aides. He also served at St. Francis Church in St. Boniface, Manitoba where he stayed for eleven years.

In 1975 Br. Ivo was made pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Comber, Ontario with a mission in Staples, Ontario. He was then transferred to St. Anne of the Lakes Parish with the mission church Our Lady of the Angels, Star of the Sea on Pelee Island. He also said Mass every Monday evening in the chapel of Southwestern Regional Center. For thirty one years he served in Erieau and the people were very happy to have such a devoted priest among them. They enjoyed his short sermons and weekly bulletins which often reflected his dry sense of humor.

With the shortage of priests in the London Diocese and the need for clustering's of parishes, Erieau was made a Mission of St. Mary's parish Blenheim and St. Michael's parish Ridgetown Ontario. At this point Br. Ivo's health was deteriorating and so he was retired at the Capuchin friary of St. Francis where he lived in community until his death on June 8th 2010. His funeral Mass was at St. Mary's parish on June 10, 2010 and the friars carried him to his final rest in the Evergreen cemetery in Blenheim where many of his confreres also rest in peace.

