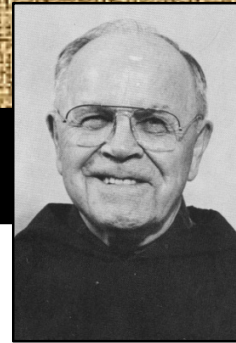


+Clarence (Rudolph) Grosser was born on 09 April 1909 and died on 13 May 1989 at the age of 80 in Abington, Massachusetts.



Our friar was born in Tisch, Czechoslovakia, but came to us from Appleton WI where the family had moved into the Capuchin parish of St. Joseph and young Rudolph attended the parish school. He felt a call to the priesthood and was enrolled at St. Lawrence Seminary, and there became known as a hard-working, determined student, who would take on any task, especially the challenge of manual labor. His novitiate began at Detroit in 1928 and then he went on for studies at Marathon WI. Ordained in 1935, he spent his first four years in priestly ministry teaching at the minor seminary at Mt. Calvary and serving as a prefect of discipline. Throughout his life this friar of true manly piety would expect those he worked with to put aside any personal agenda and fulfill well what they had promised before God.

His natural friendliness thrived in the atmosphere of interpersonal relationships that parish work provided, in Milwaukee at St. Elizabeth until 1942 and in Sacred Heart, Yonkers NY, until 1945. His three years at St. Michael in Brooklyn brought involvement in various youth programs and the use of his new-found talent for raising money. This ability was used well during his time at St. John NYC which began in 1948. Besides the routine priestly duties at this 'service' church in midtown Manhattan, he contributed his time and talent to any project that helped support the work there. In 1956 at the new Saint Anthony Friary, Hudson NH, Clarence was part of a work team that energetically prepared the building for its opening as a house of philosophy. He stayed on as the first guardian and used his authority firmly to bring order into the routine of this new house of studies.

In 1958 at Mary Immaculate Friary, Garrison NY, his work ethic was especially useful in the brothers' formation program for one year. Two years followed at St. Francis Chapel, Springfield MA. He was back at St. John for the next thirteen years, nine of them in the office of the Mission Procurator. At this time his back began to give him pain, and this difficulty would be with him thereafter. Eventually, in 1974 his health called for semi-retirement at the novitiate at Milton MA where he remained until it closed in 1979. This unassuming spiritual man moved to St. Lawrence Friary, Abington MA, where several sisters' communities were happy to be served by this holy priest. Because of his friendly conversations many people of the local parish and surrounding area became his friends. Our friar ambassador, very content during his final ten years, took sick and died in his sleep two months before the friary closed, as if to say: *"After Abington, there is only heaven."*