

## **"Brother Candy" Was Pioneering Capuchin Helper**

For fifty-two years Capuchin Brother Berthold Ascher preferred going where the going was roughest. He would pick up his tool box and go anyplace and do any job he was asked to do, but he preferred to "pioneer". To his Superiors, he was known as "Brother Fit-it" because of the way he could keep the oldest machine in running shape.

To the Cheyenne Indian children of St. Labre Mission in Montana, he was known as Brother Candy because the pocket in his brown Capuchin habit seemed to hold an endless supply. "I don't just give them candy," he said recently. "I give them nourishing candy like raisins and solid nut rolls and crackerjacks to help fill in for what they might not get at home."

His reputation of Brother Candy followed him to St. Xavier Mission on the Crow Reservation when he was assigned at his own request last January. The Crow Indian Children had problems pronouncing Berthold so they quickly took up the cry "Brother Candy" and he never failed to respond to their plea.

Brother Berthold was 79 years of age when he asked to be transferred to St. Xavier Mission. After he arrived there in

early January of this year, he said, "I am happy now because I am pioneering again in a new place. I brought all my tools with me and there are many jobs to be done in this old place. Life was becoming too easy for me at St. Labre and I'm not used to that. I'm of the horse and wagon days and it's hard for me to keep up with this modern generation."

Recently Brother Berthold was asked what advice he would offer to young men considering the life of a Capuchin Brother. "It's hard for an old timer like me to advise these young kids," he chuckled. "They are out of my world. In my day, all you needed was a strong back, willing hands and a love for the Lord but things have changed. Tell them this for me though. It's a good life—It's a useful life. Young men should think it over and should try it."

On Saturday May 20th this good and useful life came to an end. It had carried Brother Berthold from his birthplace in Sheboygan, Wis. to a life of service ending in Montana. His assignments took him to Marathon, Wis., Huntington, Indiana, Detroit, Michigan and the Indiana Missions. "Even when it was hard for him to breathe, he found small ways of remaining useful," commented one of his confreres. "What more could a man ask?"

Funeral services were held at St. Labre Mission at Ashland, Montana on May 24. Burial was at the Capuchin Seminary of St. Mary, Crown Point, Indiana.

**Editor's Note:** This story arrived too late to be published before final rites for Brother Berthold.