

sent to Sacred Heart College to finish the school year and then to the school in Sacramento. He was diagnosed with tuberculosis and sent to St. Michael's College (high school) in Santa Fe, New Mexico, with the hope that the cold, dry climate would help him recover. But the disease persisted and finally conquered him after four years.

17. Brother Andrew Abdon (John Christenson) died suddenly of a heart attack in Santa Fe,



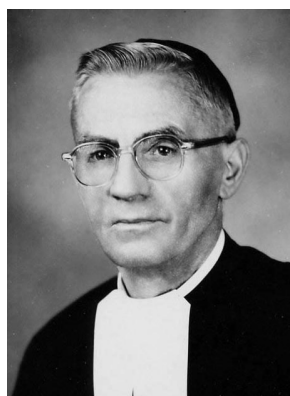
New Mexico, at the age of 59. He collapsed on the St. Michael's High School football field in that city while cheering the varsity football team during practice. He was born on December 12, 1917, in Detroit, Michigan, and entered the junior novitiate at Sacred Heart Training College in Las Vegas, New Mexico, in 1933. He received the brother's garb in the novitiate at De La Salle in Lafayette, Louisiana, on August

14, 1936, and a year later was kept there to work on the physical plant for two years. In 1939 he was sent to the community in charge of the physical plant at Sacred Heart in Las Vegas, 1939-1941, and at his insistence was finally moved to the scholasticate to take college courses, 1941-1944. He taught at St. Michael's College (high school) in Santa Fe, New Mexico, 1944-1947, Instituto Regiomontano in Monterrey, Mexico, 1947-1950, and again at St. Michael's in Santa Fe for 21 years, 1950-1971. He spent two years at Cathedral High School in El Paso, Texas, 1971-1973, one as a teacher and one as principal. He was sent back to Santa Fe and taught there until his death. He was not only a successful teacher but also a successful coach of seventh- and eighth-grade football and basketball teams. His great interest in the development of the Spanish language in New Mexico led him to do extensive research in the Indian pueblos and the isolated Spanish villages. His scholarly work was published in a seven-volume limited edition after his death.

18. 1955: Brother James Walter (Michael F. Marnane) died in Glencoe, Missouri, at age 75. He was born in Chicago, Illinois, on October 24, 1879, and entered the junior novitiate in Glencoe, Missouri, in 1893 at age 14. He entered the novitiate there on August 4, 1895, and received the brother's robe there. His many assignments in the St. Louis District schools included three in Santa Fe, New Mexico: teacher at St. Michael's College (high school), 1904-1905 and 1906-1909, and director of the school, 1909-1910.

18. 1956: Brother Basile (Antoine Méjean) died in Lafayette, Louisiana, at age 73. He was born in the village of Prades in the French department of La Lozère on August 2, 1882, into a deeply religious family of six children, living on a small farm in a mountain valley. He entered the

brothers' junior novitiate in Mende on December 21, 1894, at the age of 12 but a few months later was part of a group sent to the larger junior novitiate of over 100 boys in Buzenval, near Paris. He had a younger brother who followed him and also died a Christian Brother. He received the brother's garb in the novitiate in Paris on October 23, 1898, studied for a year in the St. Joseph scholasticate in Paris, and received the elementary teaching license in 1900. He taught in the agricultural department of the brothers' large boarding school in Beauvais four years. There he learned animal husbandry, horticulture, and gardening. He then did two years of military service, with such success that he received several promotions and an offer to attend the French military academy. The young Brother Basile was strongly tempted but decided to seek the advice of the assistant to the superior general, who thought that the brothers' community at Fontainebleau would be a good environment to help him sort things out and hopefully facilitate his re-entry into community life and teaching. He was right, and Basile was soon so happy and confident that he never looked back. He was successful in teaching and enjoyed it. However, the school was closed in 1909 due to the French anti-religious laws of 1904, and Basile joined his confrères that fall taking an intensive course in Spanish in Caluire, near Lyon. Unfortunately, he contracted a pulmonary infection and had to spend several months recuperating in the brothers' retirement home in Athis-Mons, near Paris. He returned to Caluire in March 1910 and left for Cuba in August. He taught there through December 1911, but by that time the tropical climate had brought back his lung problem and left him too weak to teach. He was sent to rest and recover in the mountain



climate of Querétaro, Mexico, in January 1912. He recuperated gradually and was able to teach in the Liceo Católico in that city, but for the rest of his life he was bothered by a chronic cough. Then in August 1914 the General Venustiano Carranza revolution forced the expulsion of all 175 French brothers then in Mexico. Basile was among some 65 who accepted the offer to go to the United States. He was assigned to the New York

District's scholasticate in Pocantico Hills to learn English. His first assignment was tailored to his interests and experience: the state home for juvenile delinquents at Lindendale, where he taught teenage boys farming and dairying, and enjoyed it. But again, the climate was not good for his lungs and in 1916 he was sent to St. Nicholas school in Bernalillo, New Mexico, where the climate was perfect for him. He dearly loved teaching the poor boys there, and in 1924 was named director of the school. He was sent to the brothers' international motherhouse in Lembecq, Belgium, in 1926 for a special