

21. BROTHER THOMAS LUETTE, C.SS.R.



* OF YOUR CHARITY *

—PRAY FOR THE SOUL OF—

Br. Thomas Luetze,

C. SS. R.

Born, September 14, 1821.

Professed as Religious, June 6, 1858.

Died, January 25, 1899.

PRAYER.

Absolve, we beseech Thee, O Lord, the soul of Thy servant, THOMAS, from all fetters of sin, so that, having risen in a glorious resurrection, he may dwell among Thy saints and elect. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Merciful Jesus, grant him eternal rest.

My Jesus, mercy.

Sweet heart of Jesus, be my salvation.

Brother Thomas born in Oberhof, Baden, Germany, September 14, 1821. After his mother died, his father married again and brought his family to America - to Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, when he was eight years old.

After leaving school, he obtained a position as a cabin-boy on a boat, plying its route between Pittsburg and New Orleans. When the boat floundered, it put an end to his nautical ambitions.

He wished to become a priest but, as his father was too poor to help him, he settled, for a time, in learning the carpenter's trade. When his father died, he became the only source of support for his family for several years.

When his assistance was no longer needed, Father Francis X. Seelos, C.SS.R., who was his confessor, assisted him in applying for admission into the Congregation. He was 30 years old at the time.

He began his novitiate at St. Alphonsus' Church, Baltimore; he was sent to New Orleans to help build St. Alphonsus Church in New Orleans. He returned to Annapolis where he was professed on

June 6, 1858. He continued service in the Congregation.

It seemed providential for the Province that he was around. He became 'the' builder of the St. Louis Province. The churches, convents (rectories) and schools in New Orleans, Chicago, St. Louis, Kansas City, Detroit and Windsor Spring (Kirkwood) were erected by him. At the erection of the St. Louis Province, Brother Thomas was stationed in Chicago (St. Michael's). He labored for the material upbuilding of the Province until his strength failed him.

He was a man of extraordinary faith and unusual generosity in the service of the Lord and the Province. From the day of his admission into the novitiate to the day of his death was made without reserve.

To say that he had a great devotion to the Lord and His Mother - that he observed the rule and was kind to everyone - describes his life inadequately. For years his brethren regarded him as a living saint and venerated him as such when he died.

During the last year of his life, he spent most of his time in chapel. When he could go there no longer, his great consolation was to receive Holy Communion in his room. He suffered an apoplectic stroke on January 21st. He died on January 25th, 1899. A solemn requiem was offered for his soul at Kirkwood; he was buried in the juvenate cemetery (now at Liguori).

At his death, Brother Thomas was 77 years of age; 40 years professed.