

**R**ev. Brother Ignatius (Dexter Wallace) Eaton, O.S.B. died peacefully on Friday morning, March 31, 2017 at the Maine Veteran's Home in Scarborough, Maine where he had been a resident, just three days before his 93<sup>rd</sup> birthday.

He was born on April 3, 1924 in Portland, Maine, the son of Edwin and Bessie (Nunan) Eaton, and attended Portland schools, graduating from Portland High School in 1942. He served in the U.S. Army during the Second World War. He married Mary A. Eicholz, and they had three children – Patricia Ann, Edwin Brooks, and Charles Edward Eaton. He and his family lived in Clinton, IA. after discharge from the army, where he worked for the E.I. Dupont Co. working initially as a laboratory technician, and later being promoted to Mechanical Designer. He was a devoted husband and father and additionally, was active in service organizations as well as the Episcopal Church, where he served in many Vestry offices. He and Mary moved back to Maine where they settled in Kennebunk, after his children were raised.

He began attending Masses and services at Old St. Paul's in Portland, Maine. There he found a spiritual home where he dedicated his spiritual life. Despite the distance from his home in Kennebunk, he became faithful in his attendance and service to the parish. He is remembered for rarely missing Sunday Mass. He served on the parish Vestry, various committees, and held a long-term post as Parish Clerk. He also served on the altar as acolyte, crucifer, and was licensed by his Bishop as Lay-Reader.

He was pre-deceased by his wife Mary, and son Edwin. The loss was greatly felt by Dexter, and he turned to his deep faith for consolation. When he learned about a group of men discerning to found a Benedictine Community under the guidance and direction of Bp. Bruce S. Chamberlain, Ordinary of the Diocese of the Northeast, Anglican Church in America,

Dexter inquired, discerned, and was formally accepted into religious life on September 1<sup>st</sup>, 1991. He was, after successfully completing his novitiate, among the group of foundation members who professed their permanent vows as Benedictine monks on October 16, 1993. This date was also the official founding date of the community and was given official approbation by the Rt. Rev. Bruce S. Chamberlain as the ***Servants of the Holy Family of the Order of St. Benedict, Our Lady of Seven Sorrows Priory***. The Rev. Br. Robert Herrick was appointed and elected as first prior. Dexter took the religious Name of **Br. Ignatius**, after *St. Ignatius of Antioch*, a second-century Bishop and martyr. Br. Ignatius grew and flourished in his religious life. He moved to Scarborough in order to be closer to his beloved Old St. Paul's. He lived a semi-enclosed life. He held a part-time job for many years at the Oak Hill Ace Hardware store, where he made many friends with the staff and customers. The rest of the time he spent living his monastic vocation and serving St. Paul's. A devoted Marian, Br. Ignatius founded a cell of the Society of Mary (an Anglo-Catholic devotional and rosary prayer group) at St. Paul's. He is credited with organizing an ecumenical rosary prayer-group with the St. Paul's cell and parishioners of St. Pius X parish in Portland, and was the author of a beautiful scriptural rosary booklet which is still used widely today.

Following encouragement from the rector of St. Paul's, Fr. Lester York, and his Prior, Fr. Kevin LaMarre, O.S.B. Br. Ignatius studied for Holy Orders for the Sacred Diaconate. He was ordained by the Rt. Rev. George Langberg, Bishop of the Diocese of the Northeast on October 25, 2003 at Old St. Paul's in Portland, ME. He served St. Paul's faithfully in this capacity for many years, conducting deacon services, leading both rosary devotions and Stations of the Cross, and visiting the sick in hospitals and shut-ins bringing them Holy Communion. He

faithfully served his parish and monastic community well into his 80's.

**Br. Ignatius** moved to the Veteran's Home in Scarborough, ME. when it became apparent that living alone was becoming too much and his health started to decline. His special sense of humor quickly endeared him to both the staff and residents, and in no time, he was at home. As part of a special program at the Veteran's home, at age 89, he realized a life-long dream of riding a horse. Despite his health, Br. Ignatius retained his quick Yankee sense of humor and liked to verbally tease both residents, staff, and visitors, but always in a very nice way.

A funeral Mass was celebrated at Old St. Paul's on Monday, April 3, 2017, (his birthday). He was laid to rest at Evergreen Cemetery in Kennebunk, ME.

**Br. Ignatius** now joins his Benedictine Brothers, Robert, John +, Dismas, & William along with his loved ones in peaceful repose and everlasting life. May we remember this gentle soul in our prayers, and bid him to remember us in his conversations with our Lord.

*Requiescat in pace, frater!*



**Rev. Brother Ignatius, O.S.B.**  
**(Dexter Wallace Eaton)**  
*April 3, 1924 – March 31, 2017*

*Monk of*  
**Our Lady of Seven Sorrows Priory**  
**The Order of St. Benedict**  
**Raymond, Maine, U.S.A.**

**Entered Religious life September 1, 1991**  
**Solemnly Professed October 16, 1993**  
**Ordained to Sacred Diaconate October 25, 2003**