

## Br. Denis Rumschlag

Br. Denis Rumschlag, C.P.P.S., 91, died Monday, Dec. 29, 2008, at 4:30 a.m. in the Dayton Heart Hospital, where he was awaiting surgery. He spent much of his life as a brother caring for others in the infirmary of St. Charles Center, Carthage, where he made his home for more than 50 years.

He was born Alfred John Rumschlag on Oct. 7, 1917, in Decatur, Ind., the son of Lewis and Clara (Heimann) Rumschlag. He grew up on the family farm and served as a medic and dental assistant in the U.S. army during World War II. He was awarded a bronze star for rescuing a pilot during his service in New Guinea and the Philippines.

After the war, he joined the Missionaries of the Precious Blood in 1946, making his profession in 1947 as Br. Denis. After a brief time working on the farm at St. Charles Center, then St. Charles Seminary, he was appointed head of the infirmary at Saint Joseph's College in Rensselaer, Ind., which is sponsored by the Missionaries of the Precious Blood. In 1950, he was named director of the infirmary at St. Charles, a position that he held for 45 years.

Although he officially retired as director in 1995, he continued to be of help to ailing Community members in the infirmary as long as his health permitted.

Br. Denis was one of 15 brothers and sisters. His surviving siblings and their spouses include Sr. Clara Ann Rumschlag, CSC, of Notre Dame, Ind.; Esther Rosenbeck, Coldwater; Herman and Agnes Rumschlag and Jerome and Lois Rumschlag, all of Decatur, Ind.; Catherine Rumschlag, Abingdon, Va.; Cletus Rumschlag, Fort Wayne, Ind.; Jean Rumschlag, Elm Grove, Wisc.; Louis and Loretta Rumschlag, Decatur, Ind.; Thomas Rumschlag, Fort Wayne; and Monica and Clifford Wyss, Coldwater, Mich. Other survivors include a brother-in-law, John Girard and numerous nieces and nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews. Br. Denis' cousin is the Rev. Larry Heiman, C.P.P.S., of Carthage.

Deceased are four sisters, Margaret Becker, Dorothy Rumschlag, Dolores Schmit and Rita Girard; a sister-in-law, Kathleen Rumschlag; two brothers-in-law, John Schmit and Leonard Rosenbeck; and a cousin, Fr. Ambrose Heiman, C.P.P.S., and an uncle, Br. Fritz Heiman, C.P.P.S., who were Community members.

Br. Denis was very committed to his responsibilities in the Community and equally modest about his contributions. Never one to look for thanks or glory, he worked tirelessly in the infirmary, said Connie Klosterman, who took over as infirmary director after Br. Denis retired. "He was always persistent, always trying to get to the bottom of any medical problem," she said. "He never let anything slip through the cracks. He got his basic understanding of medicine in the service, but throughout his life he kept on learning."

He was a man of deep faith who saw his role as one of service to God and to his Community, she said. "He was no-nonsense. He called it like he saw it, and he was usually right," she said.

A Mass of Christian burial was celebrated at St. Charles on Friday, Jan. 2 at 2 p.m., the Rev. Angelo Anthony, C.P.P.S., presiding. Burial followed in the Community cemetery.