

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY FATHER FRANCISCO!



Father Francis Joseph Dietzler was born in Philadelphia, USA on May 10, 1923. He entered Spencer monastery in 1951 and became a novice on August 21, 1951 (his religious name was Br. Alexandre). He then made his solemn profession on September 8, 1956, and was ordained a priest on December 21, 1957.

In 1960, Fr. Alexandre was appointed superior of the Spencer foundation in Chile (La Dehesa 1960-1963, later changed its affiliation to Gethsemane) – today it is the Miraflores Abbey. However, on March 6, 1963, the abbot of Spencer asked him to go to Azul as its superior, a position he held for four years, until December 07, 1967.

When Azul became semi-autonomous in 1969, the community elected another superior, but Fr. Alexandre changed his stability and remained there until 1977, when the abbot of Genesee asked him to be the founding superior of the Genesee foundation in Brazil, the current Abbey of Novo Mundo.

In Brazil, Fr. Alexandre returned to using his baptismal name, that is, Francisco, remaining in the position of superior until 1988 (October 24, 1977 – 1988), when Novo Mundo became a simple priory, and the community chose another superior.

Thus, Fr. Francisco was superior of three Latin American monasteries, being the founding superior of two of them. Since 1988, he has played a fundamental role in our community, assuming various responsibilities over the years. He is deeply revered and loved by each of the brothers. Indeed, he has a fundamental role in the presence of the Order in these three countries. It has been 66 years of presence in Latin America.

