

## *Legacy Project*

**May 26<sup>th</sup>**

### **Brother Sixtus (Arthur) Perzynski, C.S.C.**

*born: 21 July 1914*

*died: 26 May 1998*



Sixtus was born in Gilman, Minnesota and attended schools there. He had a difficult early life. His mother (and a new-born baby brother) died when he was 7 years old. When he was 12, his brother died in a farming accident, and his father died the next year. He joined Holy Cross and made his first vows at the novitiate in 1934. He worked on community farms in Watertown, Valatie, Rolling Prairie and St. Joseph Farm for a total of 52 years of dedicated service. He had a few accidents with heavy machinery, once separating his hip and then injuring his shoulder another time. One time he fell off a barn door onto a concrete floor. A few evenings later, he was plowing the fields with his arm in a sling until 11pm. When asked why, he said, "It's the planting season and the work's gotta be done." When there was no more farming work to do, in 1986, he found challenges by working on the lawns and gardens at Sherman Oaks for 11 years. His roses were a beauty for all to see. He had a wonderful sense of humor and an infectious grin. Sixtus enjoyed both the work he did and the prayerful community he served.

*Man's days are like those of grass, like a flower of the field he blooms.*

**-- Psalm 103:15**

*The first farmer was the first man. All historic nobility rests  
on the possession and use of the land.*

**-- Ralph Waldo Emerson**