

The first brother of the Congregation to go to St. Mary's, Annapolis, merely a month after its formal opening, was **Brother Jacob (James) Engel**. He had become familiar with the Redemptorists while resident near Most Holy Redeemer on East Third Street in Manhattan, where he entered. But it was in Annapolis that he received the habit on May 15, 1853. He was formerly a tailor and so was placed in charge of the tailor shop and front office. Additionally, the novice master at the time, Father Gabriel Rumpler, would frequently call upon Brother Jacob to dismiss novices who Rumpler believed unfit to continue in the Congregation. At times this caused Brother Jacob considerable distress, though he performed the duty under obedience. Gradually, however, Brother Jacob's docility was joined with prudence. As Father Rumpler's mental faculties became increasingly diminished, Brother Jacob wisely diverted him from making a public spectacle and placed him in the care of the house physician. Together with Father Francis Seelos, was able to provide Father Rumpler with proper treatment.

Brother Jacob's second novitiate began on August 25, 1856 and he was professed March 2, 1857. Between 1857 and 1871 he was assigned to other Redemptorist houses, but in November 1871 he settled at St. Alphonsus in New York, where he served as

sacristan and porter until his health gave way in the summer of 1895. With nearly a quarter century at the office door, Brother "Jake," as he came to be known, was the model of patience and good will. In June 1895 he suffered a slight stroke. In late August, while attempting to recuperate in Boston at the Redemptorist house on Mission Hill, he underwent terrific pain in his leg and received a poor prognosis from the physicians at Massachusetts General Hospital. After making a novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help, a confrere, Brother Oswald, admonished him to make some small offering in her honor, such as abstaining from fruit on Saturday. If he were to do so, she might cure him. Brother Jake stated matter-of-factly that he had not eaten fruit on Saturday for the last forty years. Serenity covered him and, with the community around him, he spoke his final words, September 8, 1895: "St. Alphonsus pray for me."

Brother Jacob was 66 at the time of his death. Born in Rehborn, Bavaria on May 29, 1829, his body was returned to New York City, where it is interred in the Redemptorist crypt at Third Street.

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