

*Louis Philip Baptiste*

*OBLATE OF THE CONGREGATION  
OF THE MOST HOLY REDEEMER*



*FEBRUARY 6, 1893 - FEBRUARY 27, 1982*

## EULOGY

PHILIP LOUIS BAPTISTE

FEBRUARY 6, 1893 - FEBRUARY 27, 1982

Mr. Philip Baptiste was a long time resident of Frenchtown and is remembered for the many years spent as a carpenter for the Redemptorist Fathers. His work took him to the Rectory, Cathedral, the Convent, the Church at Mafolie, St. Anne's Chapel in Frenchtown and Sts. Peter and Paul School.

Mr. Philip was born on the Island of St. Barts on February 6, 1893. His early years were spent with his father learning carpentry. Some time was spent on the Island of St. Kitts and in 1916 he arrived in St. Thomas and settled in the Tutu area. Philip, for a short time, tried to be a fisherman like his brother, but being a carpenter was the stronger force.

He was offered and accepted a position with the U.S. Navy as a carpenter - cabinet maker, a position he held until 1931 when the facility was deactivated.

He built his home in Frenchtown and in 1928 he married the former Jean Louise (Alma) Berry. They spent the next 53½ years taking care and loving each other. They had one son, Louis A. Baptiste.

When the U.S. Navy facility was deactivated in 1931, Mr. Philip went to work for the Redemptorist Fathers as their carpenter for the churches, rectory, convent and school. He also became caretaker and "Bell-Ringer" for St. Anne's Chapel. He loved these

chores and did them with great dedication. In fact, after some 40 years of denoted service at St. Anne's chapel, the old church bell wore out and a new bell was dedicated to him on Christmas 1974.

On July 25, 1967 for his love of God and many dedicated years of service to the Redemptorist Fathers he was honored by being consecrated an oblate of the congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer, the Redemptorist Fathers, a tribute that he cherished.

Most of the young people of French Town remember Mr. Philip as the caretaker of the chapel and "Bell-Ringer" but the older residents remember him as the carpenter and some times coffin maker. He was often called to build a coffin to bury a loved one.

Many of the wood frame houses in French Town were built by Mr. Baptiste. His handy work is still noticeable.

He will long be remembered for his deep religious fervor, his kindness and understanding.

He was a very gentle and respectable man who did much good for all who came in contact with him.

He was well loved and respected throughout the community.

We say farewell to Mr. Baptiste, a very religious man and a friend who will not soon be forgotten.

## **SURVIVORS**

### **WIFE**

JEAN LOUISE (ALMA) BAPTISTE

LOUIS AND BETTY BAPTISTE

### **SISTERS**

MARIE (NININE) AUBAIN

### **GRANDCHILDREN**

GARY BAPTISTE

BRIAN AND SHERYL BAPTISTE

MYLA BAPTISTE

### **GREAT-GRANDSON**

CHRISTOPHER BAPTISTE

### **NEPHEWS**

VICTOR OLIVE

MARCEL OLIVE

LEOPOLD OLIVE

### **NIECES**

THERESA AUBAIN

RITA GUMBS