

The explanation below is written by Fr. Jonathan Fischer, O.S.B. of St. John's Abbey, Collegeville, MN. He is the nephew of Frs. Alban and Landolin Engel:

A GIFT TO A PROUD GERMAN/RUSSIAN MOTHER

This handmade plaque was composed and put together in the spring of 1938 by Sister Margaret Mary Engel, O.S.B. as a special gift to her widowed mother, Leocadia (Braun) Engel, congratulating and honoring her for being the mother of two Catholic priests. It commemorates the First Holy Masses of her oldest son, Fr. Alban (Raphael) Engel, O.S.B. who was ordained on June 14, 1925, and of her younger son, Fr. Landolin (Pius) Engel, O.S.B. who was ordained 13 years later, on June 6, 1938. It was on the occasion of Fr. Landolin's First Mass celebration, a few days later, in Strasburg that the presentation of this plaque was made. Fr. Alban is pictured on the upper left corner of the plaque and Fr. Landolin on the upper right side. Both priests belonged to the Order of St. Benedict: Fr. Alban was a member of Assumption Abbey in Richardton, N.D., and Fr. Landolin belonged to St. John's Abbey in Collegeville, MN.

Since their mother was first generation German/Russian and spoke little, if any, English, Sr. Margaret Mary composed the poem in German. The "she" refers, of course, to Leocadia, the mother; "the priest" and "her son" refer to either and both of the sons, ordained 13 years apart. The poem is composed in rather flowery German verse. The English translation, which follows, is ... less so.