

## Brother Joseph Schaeftlein

January 2nd is the anniversary of the death of Brother Joseph Schaeftlein. Lawrence Schaeftlein was born in Louisville, Kentucky, on February 7, 1914. He attended St. Peter's School and Holy Name Commercial School in that city.

He chose carpentry as a trade and became a skilled cabinetmaker. He used his carpentry skills in the pattern shop of a foundry, and he also served for one year as caretaker of St. Columba's Church in Louisville.

At the age of 33, he came to Subiaco as a candidate for the Benedictine life. Lawrence Schaeftlein professed his vows as a monk of our monastery on October 31, 1948, receiving the name Joseph.

From the beginning of his monastic life, Brother Joseph worked in the carpenter shop. For two years he was refectorian. After that he divided his time between the carpenter shop and the laundry.

Failing health, dimming eyesight, and the fire that destroyed the laundry in July 1980, were blows that deprived Brother Joseph of both his work and his recreation. No longer able to read, he was forced to give up his two greatest pastimes: reading and Scrabble. Library check-out cards and Scrabble score sheets give testimony to his eagerness for both.

In his final years Brother Joseph did light custodial work, as his health allowed. His death came suddenly of a heart attack in the abbey infirmary on the afternoon of Monday, January 2, 1984, where he had been recuperating from surgery.

On Wednesday, January 4, Abbot Raphael was celebrant of the Mass of Christian burial for Brother Joseph with Father Prior Felix Fredeman conducting the interment.

At the time of his death, Brother Joseph was 69 years old and in the 35th year of his monastic profession. He is buried in our cemetery.

