

Oblate Alphonse Detzel

November 14th is the anniversary of the death of Oblate Alphonse Detzel. Joseph Detzel was born on February 14, 1854, in the town of Herxheim, Germany. When he was 27 years old, Joseph Detzel came to the United States, arriving on June 5, 1881.

Wishing to serve in a monastic community, he came to Subiaco on August 2, 1906, and made his oblation as a member of our community on April 24, 1910, receiving the name Alphonse Maria.

Brother Alphonse never learned to speak the English language, which at the time did nothing to hamper him in the fulfillment of his duties. He served our community for several years as gardener in East Park. He also served in the monastic refectory.

During the summer of 1926, his brother, Father George Detzel from Germany, visited him here following the Eucharistic Congress, which the latter attended. The two brothers had not seen each other for 36 years.

Brother Alphonse had been in failing health for more than a year before his death at 4:00 p. m. on Sunday, November 14, 1926, at Trinity Hospital in Little Rock, Arkansas, following an operation the previous Thursday for the removal of a tumor which was pressing against his esophagus. Two days following the operation, he rallied, but then he suffered a relapse and death followed quickly.

At the time of his death, Brother Alphonse was 72 years old and in the 16th year of his claustral oblation. He is buried in our cemetery.

