

Brother Michael Boesch

December 22nd is the anniversary of the death of Brother Michael Boesch. Anthony Boesch was born on September 11, 1859, in the village of Waldolwisheim, Germany.

When he was 36 years old, Anthony Boesch came to the United States and to Subiaco, arriving in 1895. He professed his vows as a monk of our monastery on August 15, 1896, receiving the name Michael.

Brother Michael served our community for many years as custodian in the abbey and academy, and as caretaker of the abbey vineyards. As vintner of the monastery, he was noted for picking the grapes slightly too early each year, an action that could possibly lessen the quality of the vintage wine. It was his contention, however, that the grapes would be eaten by the birds if they were not picked early.

At harvest time, Brother Michael and volunteer community members would pick the grapes. Brother Michael would go from row to row, watching the pickers, and if any single grape fell to the ground, he would have the harvester gather it, so that none would be wasted.

After nearly three decades of service to our community, Brother Michael became ill with influenza and contracted double pneumonia in December of 1924. He appeared to be improving from his week-long battle with pneumonia until he suffered a severe attack.

Death came suddenly and unexpectedly in the abbey infirmary at 12:30 a. m. on Monday, December 22, 1924, as Brother Michael struggled for half an hour to resist this final attack of double pneumonia.

At the time of his death, Brother Michael was 65 years old. He had been a professed monk for 28 years. He is buried in our cemetery.

