

Brother Ignatius Stallein

May 28th is the anniversary of the death of Brother Ignatius Stallein. Franz Stallein was born on December 3, 1906, in Westenholtz, in the federal state of Northrhine-Westphalia, Germany. When he was 15, he and his family moved to Mastholte, in the same province, where they lived through the difficult years of the First World War. He was a tailor by trade.

In 1930, Franz Stallein, along with his brother and sister, came to the United States, arriving on October 21, 1930. He worked for a time in the towns of Happy and Nazareth, Texas, and on September 12, 1932, he entered Subiaco Abbey. Franz Stallein professed his vows as a monk of our monastery on April 21, 1934, receiving the name Ignatius.

For the next 12 years, Brother Ignatius served our community in the abbey laundry where his previous experience as a tailor was put to good use.

Brother Ignatius soon learned all the turns in the laundry business, and when old age partially incapacitated Brother Raphael Steinberg, the younger monk became manager of the laundry.

Monday, May 27, 1946, was an ordinary workday in the laundry with Brother Ignatius putting in a full day's work. At 10:30 that night he came to the infirmary, complaining of chest pains. Father Paul Hoedebeck, infirmarian, treated the patient and put him to bed, watching with him until midnight at which time Brother Ignatius felt better.

Within four hours, death struck with stunning suddenness. Brother Ignatius died in the infirmary of our monastery early on the morning of Tuesday, May 28, 1946, from a coronary occlusion.

At the time of his death, Brother Ignatius was 39 years old and in the 12th year of his monastic profession. He is buried in our cemetery.

