

Father Anthony Vorster

June 15th is the anniversary of the death of Father Anthony Vorster. Bernard Vorster was born in Spielerville, Arkansas, on February 9, 1888. He began his secondary education at Subiaco College in 1900, and was admitted to the novitiate of our monastery in 1907.

He professed his vows as a monk of our monastery on January 6, 1909, receiving the name Anthony. He was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop John B. Morris at St. Andrew's Cathedral in Little Rock on May 30, 1913.

Father Anthony served our community as a teacher and prefect in our school. Having a great interest in sports, he took over the athletic department, directing intramural games, since at the time there were no varsity sports.

In the fall of 1918, however, Father Anthony's health gave way and he was sent to the vicinity of San Antonio, Texas, with the hope that the climate there might help his condition. From there he went to Wichita Falls, and later to Nazareth, Texas, hoping that the climate of the plains of west Texas might improve his health condition.

In 1919 Father Anthony returned to Subiaco. The next year his health failed again. With the hope that a higher altitude would restore his health, Father Anthony was sent to Prescott and Phoenix, Arizona, and, later, to Wichita Falls and Amarillo, Texas.

In the fall of 1921 Father Anthony returned to Subiaco. His health continued to weaken and Dr. Derrick, the college infirmarian, ministered to his needs. Father Anthony died of consumption in the abbey infirmary on Thursday, June 15, 1922, the feast of Corpus Christi.

At the time of his death, Father Anthony was 34 years old and in the 13th year of his monastic profession, the 9th of his priesthood. He is buried in our cemetery.

