

## Father Ignatius Bodmayr

July 15th is the anniversary of the death of Father Ignatius Bodmayr. Joseph Bodmayr was born in Grafing, in the federal state of Bavaria, Germany, on July 10, 1892. He attended primary school in his home-town. As a teenager Joseph Bodmayr came to the United States and lived for a time in Lindsay, Texas, before coming to Subiaco.

Arriving at Subiaco on January 28, 1910, Joseph began his secondary education in our academy and graduated with the class of 1916. He professed his vows as a monk of our monastery on October 7, 1917, receiving the name Ignatius. After completing his seminary studies at Subiaco, he was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop John B. Morris at St. Andrew's Cathedral in Little Rock on May 28, 1922.

Following his ordination, Father Ignatius was appointed director of the minor seminarians. In 1928 he became principal of the academy; his major task was to re-establish the academy after the disastrous fire of 1927.

In 1932, Father Ignatius was appointed prior of the monastery and professor of liturgy and pastoral theology in the major seminary. He held these positions until 1946 when he began work as pastor of Sts. Peter and Paul Church in Morrison Bluff, Arkansas, a position he held until 1950.

Father Ignatius returned to the classroom in 1950; this time at Corpus Christi Academy in Corpus Christi, Texas, where he also assumed the role of prior of the dependent priory.

From 1955 to 1958, Father Ignatius was a teacher at Laneri High School in Fort Worth, Texas. Beginning in 1958, Father Ignatius became assistant pastor of St. Mary's Church in Windthorst, Texas, a position he held until 1969 when a weakened heart and circulation problems led to his retirement and return to the abbey.

In 1967, Father Ignatius celebrated his golden jubilee of religious profession, making a jubilee visit to his Bavarian homeland.

In his latter years of retirement at the abbey, Father Ignatius was confined to a wheelchair following the amputation of his legs because of poor circulation. Daily he offered Mass in the Einsiedeln Chapel, near his room, and until his last year, he joined his confreres at table, and occasionally at recreation.

Father Ignatius was a gentle and beloved monk and priest. He maintained his joy and peace despite severe health problems in his latter years. His deepest concerns always seemed to be the welfare of others. His gentleness and counsel and abiding warmth were the hallmark of this octogenarian. Until almost the very end, he continued his special gifts of counsel as friend and confessor to his confreres.

Early Tuesday morning, July 15, 1980--five days after his 88th birthday--Father Ignatius died of apparent heart failure while asleep in his room.

At the time of his death, Father Ignatius was 88 years old and in the 62nd year of his monastic profession, the 58th of his priesthood. He is buried in our cemetery.

