

Father Malachy McNerney

July 24th is the anniversary of the death of Father Malachy McNerney. James McNerney was born in Verona, Missouri, March 10, 1941. He received his elementary education at Sacred Heart School in his hometown of Verona, Missouri, and his high school education at Subiaco Academy, graduating with the class of 1959.

James McNerney professed his vows as a monk of our monastery on September 8, 1961, receiving the name Malachy. He was ordained to the priesthood in his home parish of Sacred Heart, Verona, Missouri, by Bishop Ignatius Strecker of the diocese of Springfield, Missouri, on May 26, 1967.

Father Malachy was on the faculty of Subiaco Academy from 1967 to 1982 where he taught English, Latin, and Christian doctrine. From 1977 to 1979 he was also chaplain of the academy and assistant basketball coach, and during the school year of 1979-80 he was a dean in the academy.

An avid fan and supporter of the academy Trojans, Father Malachy in his heyday was known as the foremost sports historian; he kept accurate records of Trojan basketball statistics.

In the classroom, Father Malachy's comprehensive English exams and his Latin versions of college sports stories composed for his students disclosed a sprightly and lighthearted disposition.

From 1980 to 1982, along with his teaching duties, he was mission pastor to Sacred Heart of Mary Church in Barling, Arkansas. He was then appointed resident pastor of this parish, serving from 1982 to 1993.

Returning to the abbey, he served as mission pastor of Assumption Catholic Church, Booneville, Arkansas. When his health permitted in 1995-96 he also served as a part-time faculty member in the academy.

After years of service as a weekend missionary, Father Malachy wittingly declared that he had held religious services in "all points of Arkansas and many in Oklahoma."

Following several years of declining health—the latter year spent in lengthy hours of dialysis treatment—Father Malachy died shortly before 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 24, 1997, in the monastic Health Center.

Abbot Jerome Kodell was celebrant and homilist of the 10:00 a.m. Mass of Christian burial and performed the obsequies on Saturday July 26.

At the time of his death, Father Malachy was 56 years old and in the 35th year of his monastic profession, the 30th of his priesthood. He is buried in our cemetery.

