

## Brother Martin Gocke

February 3rd is the anniversary of the death of Brother Martin Gocke. Gilbert Gocke was born on Friday, December 31, 1926, in Terre Haute, Indiana, where he attended St. Benedict elementary school. He then moved with his family to North Little Rock, Arkansas. In 1942, Gilbert came to Subiaco Academy and joined the class of 1946. Wishing to follow his desire of serving God in religious life, he entered Subiaco Abbey on September 3, 1945, as a candidate for the brotherhood.

Gilbert Gocke professed his vows as a monk of our monastery on Thursday, May 1, 1947, receiving the name Martin.

For six decades Brother Martin worked in direct service to his confreres. His was one of the more familiar faces in the monastery, though he was little known outside the abbey due to the fact that his life's work evolved around the daily needs within the Subiaco complex. Through the years community members witnessed his dedication to daily prayer and work from early morning until night, aggressively pursuing the task at hand.

From 1947-50 he was refectorian and then for the next 20 years he assisted in the kitchen. In 1973 he was one of the house custodians and an assistant in the laundry.

From 1975 until 2000, Brother Martin remained a faithful steward, generously assisting in the refectory, laundry, dishwasher, and custodial management. He diligently supplied the monastic recreation area with ice, drinks, and snacks from the kitchen.

For many years he had the responsibility of monastic bell-ringer, daily summoning community members for the hours of the Divine Office, Mass and other liturgical functions. On Thursday, May 1, 1997, Brother Martin celebrated his golden jubilee of monastic profession.

With age, Brother Martin was plagued with several health problems culminating in progressive dementia which by 2003 prompted his taking up residence in the monastic Health Center. During this time he marked his 60th anniversary of monastic profession on May 1, 2007.

He followed the admonition of the Rule of St. Benedict: "When they live by the labor of their hands, as our fathers and Apostles did, then they are truly monks."

Brother Martin died in the monastic Health Center at 10:25 a.m., on Sunday, February 3, 2008, from an apparent stroke suffered 12 days earlier.

At the time of his death, Brother Martin was 81 years old. He had been a professed monk for 60 years. He is buried in our cemetery.

