

Brother William Galligan

October 28th is the anniversary of the death of Brother William Galligan. William Galligan was born on February 28, 1887, in Tucker, Arkansas, and obtained his elementary education at St. Andrew's Cathedral School in Little Rock, Arkansas, and his high school training at the Academy of St. Edward's University in Austin, Texas. He attended the University of Notre Dame for three years and the University of Arkansas for his final year where he obtained his law degree in 1908.

He then decided to enter as a postulant in the Congregation of the Holy Cross at Notre Dame, Indiana, with the desire to become a teaching brother because teaching was his first love. The provincial, however, felt his vocation lay in the priesthood and suggested he enter the seminary. After a six month trial in the seminary, William again requested admittance to the brotherhood, but his petition was not granted.

William then decided to leave Indiana, and return to Arkansas where he had been admitted to the bar as a lawyer. He entered law practice in Little Rock. In 1913 he married Agnes Moran and they raised a family of four daughters and one son. He practiced law in Little Rock, Arkansas, and Chicago, Illinois, for nine years until he volunteered for the U. S. Army in 1917. During World War I, he was an instructor and a First Sergeant.

After his discharge from the army, William Galligan gave up law practice to enter the teaching profession—a profession he always wanted to pursue. From 1920 to 1928 he taught at St. Edward's in Austin, Texas, where in his teaching career, he was professor of history, economics, sociology, and government in high school and college. He was also registrar of the university and principal of the academy. In 1925 he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree and later a Master of Arts degree at St. Edward's University in Austin, Texas.

He served for 18 years as City Superintendent of Schools in Laredo, Texas. In 1946, he resigned this position to fill various teaching positions in parochial and public schools in Texas and Arkansas, serving also on occasion as athletic director and coach of football, basketball, and baseball. In 1950, his wife died and two years later he retired to the home of a daughter in Colorado.

For 44 years, William Galligan had worked with the Knights of Columbus. With the death of his wife, he did not cease in his desire to be of service to others. With his marital and family obligations fulfilled, William was free to pursue his desire of entering a religious community.

Thus, at 67 years of age, William Galligan came to Subiaco in 1954. He professed his vows as a monk of our monastery on March 21, 1956, retaining his baptismal name, William.

Brother William served our community as a teacher in the academy and seminary. He was also engaged in writing, and he helped with custodial duties.

Following years of impaired health, Brother William died of a stroke at Crawford County Memorial Hospital in Van Buren, Arkansas, on Thursday, October 28, 1965.

At the time of his death, Brother William was 78 years old and in the 9th year of his monastic profession. He is buried in our cemetery.

