

## Father Raymond Wewers

November 10th is the anniversary of the death of Father Raymond Wewers. George Wewers was born on November 14, 1907, in Morrison Bluff, Arkansas. During his elementary school years in his home-town, he decided that he wanted to be a priest. He came to Subiaco in 1922, where he was an original member of our scholasticate, a department set up in the academy that year for high school boys preparing for religious life, and/or, the priesthood. He graduated from Subiaco Academy with the class of 1926.

George Wewers professed his vows as a monk of our monastery on October 5, 1927, receiving the name Raymond. He was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop John B. Morris at St. Andrew's Cathedral in Little Rock on May 21, 1932. Following ordination, he completed his final year of study in our seminary.

For the next 17 years, Father Raymond served our community in various leadership positions in our academy; namely, as teacher, head prefect, treasurer, manager of the campus store, and director of the print shop.

In 1950, Father Raymond was sent to south Texas for a two-year assignment at Corpus Christi Academy as a teacher and prefect of the boarding students.

From 1952 to 1958, Father Raymond was assigned to Laneri High School in Fort Worth, Texas. During these years he taught Latin, English, and German, and he was athletic director.

During his tenure in Fort Worth, he also served as chaplain of St. Therese's Home. For a time he was assistant pastor at the parish of St. Mary's and later at the parish of St. Alice.

In early 1958, he was recalled to Subiaco to serve as prior of the monastery, a position he held for six years. During this time he put much effort into the abbey's expansion program. He also served as secretary of the Alumni Association.

In 1957, Father Raymond celebrated his silver sacerdotal jubilee.

When the dependent priory of Corpus Christi was raised to the rank of an independent priory in 1959, Father Raymond was elected first independent prior, but he declined for reasons of poor health.

In 1964, Father Raymond was appointed pastor of St. Joseph's Church in Paris, Arkansas. During his pastorate, the present St. Joseph's school was built. By 1968 it was apparent that Father Raymond was in poor health, and his doctor ordered him to take a complete rest. He returned to the abbey to recuperate.

After about a year's rest at the abbey, Father Raymond was appointed pastor of Holy Redeemer Church in Clarksville, Arkansas, where he served until 1972. As his health continued to weaken, he had to relinquish his pastorate and return to the abbey.

Virtually bedfast the final year of his life, racked with cancer that had attacked every part of his body, he was in need of constant nursing care. Thus, he was at Colony Manor (rest home) in Paris, Arkansas, for the final months of his life.

Father Raymond died of cancer at the rest home in Paris on Sunday, November 10, 1974.

At the time of his death, Father Raymond was 66 years old and in the 47th year of his monastic profession, the 42nd of his priesthood. He is buried in our cemetery.

