

## Brother John Schad

December 11th is the anniversary of the death of Brother John Schad. Lawrence Schad was born in Lindsay, Texas, on January 10, 1916. He received his elementary education at St. Peter's School in Lindsay, Texas. He came to Subiaco Academy for his high school studies, graduating with the class of 1935; he studied one year in the college department at Subiaco before returning to the family farm in Lindsay, Texas, following the death of his father in 1937.

When the United States entered World War II, Lawrence Schad was inducted into the armed forces in 1942 and served his country in the Pacific. He said that in his line of duty in the U. S. Army, he was grateful that he never had to kill another person. Instead, he had the opportunity to perform one of the Corporal Works of Mercy because his army duty involved burying thousands of soldiers.

While in the armed services, Lawrence Schad earned the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with two Bronze Stars as well as a good conduct medal. After being honorably discharged from the U. S. Army in 1946, he returned to Lindsay, Texas.

Inspired by five elder siblings in religious life, Lawrence Schad began to make plans for his future. Thus, after a decade of work on the family farm and his service in the U. S. Army, he made his decision to return to Subiaco Abbey. Lawrence Schad professed his vows as a monk of our monastery on June 10, 1948, receiving the name John.

Brother John served our community for the next 50 years working on the abbey farm. In the spirit of St. Benedict, who said: "When they live by the labor of their hands, as our fathers and the Apostles did, then they are really monks," Brother John assisted in everything from harvesting grapes, oats, and soybeans to helping fell trees for the sawmill.

It was, however, for his dedicated work as herdsman for the abbey's cattle that Brother John is remembered. For many years he rose early to do the milking and again milked the cows later in the day. Checking the fencing of areas where the cattle pastured, tending to the ailments or injuries of livestock, corralling a stray, and assisting with the birth of calves were all part of his farm agenda.

Like his mentor, the Good Shepherd, Brother John knew each animal in his charge by name. At times he would stand at the window in the monks' recreation room on the third floor of the abbey and watch the movements of the cattle as they grazed in the pasture. From this vantage point, Brother John could tell if something was wrong with a particular cow and would make a mental note to check that animal the next time he went to the pasture.

One didn't need a roadmap to locate Brother John at the abbey: he could be found either at his assigned work on the farm or his place at Divine Office.

"Prayer and work," the hallmark of the Benedictine Rule, guided him. He believed in being on time for both prayer and work. He was as faithful at being in his choir stall for prayer as were his cows in their faithfulness in being at their feeding stall.

Brother John said that when he was growing up at home in Lindsay, Texas, his father always had their large family at Sunday Mass half an hour before the service began. It was ingrained in him from childhood that it's important to quietly recollect oneself before Mass and Divine Office.



In his later years, Brother John experienced failing eyesight and poor hearing but he continued to participate in community exercises as long as he was able. After a long and fruitful monastic life, Brother John retired to the monastic Health Center in the summer of 1998 following his golden jubilee of profession. His physical condition rapidly declined, but his beautiful warm smile could light up the hallway of the Health Center.

Strengthened with the sacraments and the prayers of his brother monks, Brother John died peacefully in his room in the monastic Health Center at 5:36 p.m. on Friday, December 11, 1998.

On Monday, December 14, Abbot Jerome Kodell was celebrant and homilist for the 10:00 a.m. Mass of Christian burial and performed the final obsequies.

At the time of his death, Brother John was 82 years old and in the 50th year of his monastic profession. He is buried in our cemetery.