Brother Benedict Labré Weder

February 13th is the anniversary of the death of Brother Benedict Labré Weder. Paul Weder was born on July 1, 1879, in Oberriet, Canton St. Gall, Switzerland.

Paul's father was a policeman and there were two brothers and a sister in the family, but his sister, mother, and father died during his boyhood. Together with his two brothers, Paul grew up and received his schooling in a Swiss orphanage.

Wishing to enter monastic life, Paul Weder decided to join a group of young people assembling to come to the United States to join various monasteries in this country. At the age of 14, Paul Weder came to the United States and to Subiaco with the "Expedition" of 1893. This last "Expedition" from Einsiedeln left the shores of Europe in the autumn of the year.

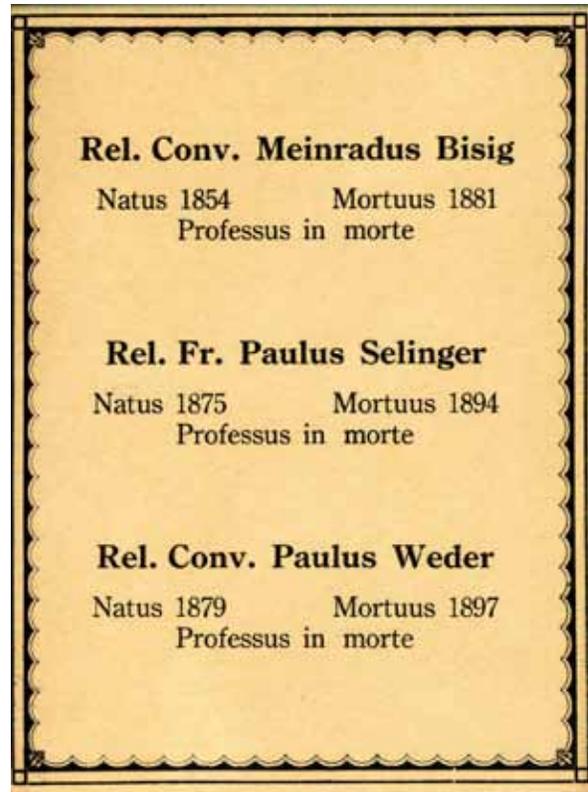More than 20 candidates for religious life were aboard the ship with four destined for our abbey.

Arriving here as a young teenager, Paul Weder joined his older brother Charles who had come to Subiaco the year before, a few months after the newly erected abbey had elected its first abbot, Ignatius Conrad.

Paul was present when his older brother received the religious name of Brother Anthony during profession ceremonies here in 1895. Paul's older brother would outlive him by 56 years.

Rel. Conv. Meinradus Bisig

Natus 1854   Mortuus 1881
Professus in morte

Rel. Fr. Paulus Selinger

Natus 1875   Mortuus 1894
Professus in morte

Rel. Conv. Paulus Weder

Natus 1879   Mortuus 1897
Professus in morte

Br. Benedict Labré Weder is one of four early Subiaco monks for whom we have no picture. Only Br. Benedict's name appears on our deceased monks' picture board. Here his name is listed as **Rel. Conv. Paulus Weder**. *Names at the time appeared in Latin and it simply means: Br. Paul Weder - Paul being his baptismal name.*

Although Paul came to Subiaco with the intention of entering religious life, he did not receive the monastic habit because of his youth and poor health.

Paul Weder professed his vows on his deathbed, receiving the name Benedict Labré. He died of consumption on Saturday, February 13, 1897.

At the time of his death, Brother Benedict Labré was 17 years old, having just professed his vows as a monk of our monastery. He had been at Subiaco Abbey for over three years. He is buried in our cemetery.