

## Father Columban Kannitzer

April 5th is the anniversary of the death of Father Columban Kannitzer. John Kannitzer, and his twin brother Louis, were born in Seattle, Washington, on June 4, 1921. He attended public elementary and secondary schools in Seattle, graduating from O'Dea High School in 1939.

While in high school, John converted to Catholicism and was baptized at St. Alphonsus Church in Seattle on April 16, 1938. He attended Seattle University and the University of Washington, and was a cellist with the Seattle Symphony Orchestra before joining the Carmelites in the Oklahoma province.

Two years later, he was dispensed from his vows as a Carmelite and entered Christ the King Seminary at Westminster Abbey, British Columbia, Canada. In 1944, John Kannitzer came to Subiaco where he professed his vows as a monk of our monastery on October 31, 1945, receiving the name Columban.

He was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Albert L. Fletcher at St. Andrew's Cathedral in Little Rock on June 3, 1950.

Having served the community as sacristan and organist prior to ordination, he continued as organist until 1953. He was also an accomplished violinist and cellist. From 1950 to 1957, Father Columban was a faculty member of the academy, teaching religion, music, Latin, typing, sociology, and history.

From 1957 to 1962, Father Columban was assigned to the faculty of Laneri High School in Fort Worth, Texas, and also served as librarian. Returning to Subiaco in 1962, he again taught religion and also fulfilled duties as librarian, a position he continued until 1975.

In the Subiaco deanery, Father Columban was appointed pastor of St. Scholastica Church in Shoal Creek from 1968 to 1975; pastor of St. Ignatius Church in Scranton from 1975 to 1983, and then pastor of St. Joseph's Church in Paris from 1983 to 1989.

He then returned to the abbey where he retired due to declining health. Within the next decade he succumbed to cancer of the prostate which spread to the lungs. Father Columban died at 10:15 p.m. on Palm Sunday, April 5, 1998, in the monastic Health Center, where he received the sacrament of Anointing shortly before his death.

Abbot Jerome Kodell was celebrant and homilist of the 10:00 a.m. Mass of Christian Burial and performed the final obsequies.

At the time of his death, Father Columban was 76 years old and in the 52nd year of his monastic profession, the 47th of his priesthood. The ashes of his twin brother Louis who died in 1984 were buried with Father Columban in our cemetery. Because the two brothers entered life together, it was Father Columban's desire that their departure be together as well.

