

Father Andrew Wewer

April 17th is the anniversary of the death of Fr. Andrew Wewer. He was born January 3, 1914, to Joe and Anna Schwierjohann Wewer, in Morrison Bluff, Arkansas, and was baptized Emil John Paul.

Emil received his elementary education at Sts. Peter and Paul School in his hometown. Two years of high school followed, one in Scranton and one in Van Buren, Arkansas. He later entered Subiaco Academy, graduating as valedictorian of the class of 1936.

Emil Wewer professed his vows as a monk of Subiaco Abbey on September 15, 1938, receiving the name Andrew. He was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Albert L. Fletcher at the Cathedral of Saint Andrew in Little Rock on June 3, 1943.

Father Andrew taught Latin, German and mathematics at Subiaco Academy from 1943-48. He then went to Corpus Christi, Texas, where he was a faculty member of Corpus Christi Academy until 1950. He then began his work in pastoral

ministry. In Arkansas he was pastor of Sts. Peter & Paul Church in his home parish at Morrison Bluff from 1950-55. He was chaplain at St. Hildegard Hospital in Clarksville, Arkansas, from 1955-58.

For the school year of 1958-59, Father Andrew was again a faculty member of Subiaco Academy, as well as commuting pastor to St. Scholastica Church in Shoal Creek, Arkansas. He then became pastor of St. Benedict Church in Subiaco until 1962. He was assistant pastor at St. Edward Church in Little Rock from 1962-63, and pastor of Holy Redeemer Church in Clarksville, Arkansas, from 1963-64. Father Andrew returned to pastoral ministry in Texas, serving as assistant pastor at Sacred Heart Church in Muenster from 1964-70, and as assistant pastor of St. Mary Church in Fort Worth from 1970-78.

He then returned to the abbey where he continued his priestly ministry as a frequent weekend substitute, and for a year served as the retreatmaster at Coury House. He was also a regular confessor for many in the community.

Father Andrew was an artistic craftsman who enjoyed working in the carpenter shop, tackling almost any job requiring technical ability. He was adept at woodcarving, furniture making, and had an innate sense of how to fix moving parts on everything from clocks to organ stops. No project seemed impossible for his multi-faceted talent.

For a time he was a licensed ham radio operator and he enjoyed fishing excursions. But games that challenged the mind were his specialty: crossword puzzles and cryptograms were soon deciphered, and then he would spend his time patiently working on jigsaw puzzles ranging from 100 to 6000 pieces. The more complex the puzzle, the more determined effort Father Andrew put into the project.

He was an avid sports fan, and he enjoyed reading the daily newspaper. Gifted with a good sense of humor, this nonagenarian was able to appreciate the ridiculous to the sublime events of the 20th and 21st centuries.

At the time of his death, Father Andrew was 94 years old and in the 69th year of his monastic profession, the 64th of his priesthood. He is buried in our cemetery.

