

## Father Frowin Koerdt

May 20th the anniversary of the death of Father Frowin Koerdt. Caspar Koerdt was born on August 5, 1878, in Vosswinkel, in the federal state of Northrhine-Westphalia, Germany.

His mother died shortly after his birth; thus, as a baby, Caspar was entrusted to the care of his sister Elizabeth. At the age of seven, Caspar came to the United States with the rest of his family, arriving on August 11, 1885, settling in Hartman, Arkansas, where other family members had colonized.

From 1885 to 1889, Caspar attended the public school in Hartman, and then he completed his elementary education in the parochial school of Spielerville, Arkansas. On December 13, 1892, he entered Subiaco College to begin his secondary education.

He professed his vows as a monk of our monastery on March 21, 1899, receiving the name Frowin. He was ordained to the priesthood here in the abbey chapel on June 25, 1904, by Bishop John Janssen, the first bishop of the diocese of Belleville, Illinois.

During the summer of 1905, Father Frowin was assigned to parish ministry in Missouri, where he received his first pastoral experience.

During the school year of 1905-1906 Father Frowin was assigned to teaching duties in our college. He described his teaching career in this way: "After watching me teach for a year, the superiors decided there must be other things I could do better."

After one year of teaching, Father Frowin was assigned as pastor of St. Mary's Church in Windthorst, Texas, from 1906 to 1918. He was then appointed pastor of Sacred Heart Church in Muenster, Texas, where he served for the next 24 years, from 1918 to 1942.

His pastoral career came to an abrupt end in May 1942, when a stroke badly impaired his eyesight. Father Frowin tried and hoped for many months to improve his condition, but in vain. The next spring another stroke affected his eyes to such an extent that he could no longer celebrate Mass.

Father Frowin retired to the abbey in June 1943, where his condition steadily declined. Father Frowin died in the abbey infirmary on Pentecost Sunday, May 20, 1945.

At the time of his death, Father Frowin was 67 years old and in the 46th year of his monastic profession, the 40th of his priesthood. He is buried in our cemetery.

