

Frater Innocent Olles

June 1st is the anniversary of the death of Frater Innocent Olles. Frater Innocent was born in Dixie, Arkansas, on February 16, 1885. He professed his vows as a monk of our monastery on November 11, 1903, receiving the name Innocent.

In the spring of 1907, this 22-year-old monk was suffering a general decline in health. He was sent to St. Vincent's Infirmary in Little Rock, Arkansas, for observation and treatment.

The diagnosis was terminal cancer. The prognosis was that the more humane procedure in treating the patient's terminal condition would be simply in easing the patient's agony until the illness had run its course.

Frater Innocent was resigned to the agonizing cross that he would have to bear for the next few weeks. The patience with which he bore his sufferings impressed all who came into contact with him. The sisters who cared for Frater Innocent in his suffering kept in constant contact with Abbot Ignatius about his condition.

On May 13, Frater Innocent suffered a stroke of paralysis which made it impossible for him to voice his needs. On May 17, one of the sisters wrote to Abbot Ignatius requesting that he and the community cease their prayers that God might spare the young monk's life, but rather offer their prayers that God might relieve Frater Innocent's sufferings, by taking him to himself.

Frater Innocent died on Saturday, June 1, 1907, at St. Vincent's Infirmary in Little Rock. He had entered Subiaco Abbey from St. Boniface Parish in Dixie, Arkansas. He was one of the first to enter our scholasticate, and he was a solemnly professed cleric who died on the very threshold of his ordination to the priesthood.

At the time of his death, he was 22 years old. He had been a professed monk for 3 years. He is buried in the cemetery of his parish, St. Boniface Church in New Dixie, Arkansas.

