

Brother Luke Bain

June 10th is the anniversary of the death of Brother Luke Bain. James Bain was born in Bardwell, Texas, on December 10, 1921. He attended elementary and high school in Ennis, Texas.

During the three years following high school, James became interested in the Catholic Church. In December of 1941, he was baptized and he made his first communion at Christmas midnight Mass.

Six months later, during World War II, he joined the U. S. Air Force, serving in the medical corps. From 1943 until the end of the war, he was a lab technician in India.

After the war, James earned a Bachelor of Science degree in 1949, and a master's degree in 1954 from North Texas State University in Denton, Texas. He also attended Lamar University earning graduate credit.

For a number of years, James taught school in various parts of the state of Texas. He also served as principal in Port O'Connor and Port Lavaca, Texas.

For a number of years he had considered the religious life, and in 1977 he came to Subiaco where he professed his vows as a monk of our monastery on September 14, 1978, receiving the name Luke.

From 1979 until the summer of 1984, Brother Luke served on the academy faculty, teaching various science courses, of which advanced biology was his favorite. From 1980 until 1984 he was also assistant dean in the academy. Meanwhile, he was pursuing summer courses in Scripture and theology at Our Lady of the Lake College in San Antonio, Texas.

While visiting his mother in Ennis, Texas, after the 1984 summer session, Brother Luke suffered a stroke which left him with severe problems in speech. He was never able to return to the classroom because of his impaired health.

Brother Luke continued to serve our community in the performance of his daily household assignments.

On May 20, 1987, Brother Luke suffered a heart attack in Ennis, Texas, where he had been staying in the care of his brother and sister-in-law. He was placed in the hospital in Ennis until June 1 when he was transferred to a nursing home as a totally bed-fast patient. He died in the nursing home in Ennis, Texas, on Wednesday, June 10, 1987.

Brother Luke's funeral was held at St. John's Church in Ennis, Texas. At the time of his death, Brother Luke was 65 years old, and in the 8th year of his monastic profession. A marker honors Brother Luke here in our abbey cemetery. He is buried next to his parents in Ennis, Texas.

