

Frater Edmund Lazzari

July 18th is the anniversary of the death of Frater Edmund Lazzari. John Lazzari was born in Tontitown, Arkansas, on December 11, 1910, the son of Joseph and Josephine Lazzari. He received his early education in Tontitown.

On September 12, 1926, John came to Subiaco to begin his secondary education in our academy where he graduated with the class of 1930.

John entered the abbey as a candidate on September 2, 1930. On September 14 he was received as a novice, and he professed his vows as a monk of our monastery on September 15, 1931, receiving the name Edmund.

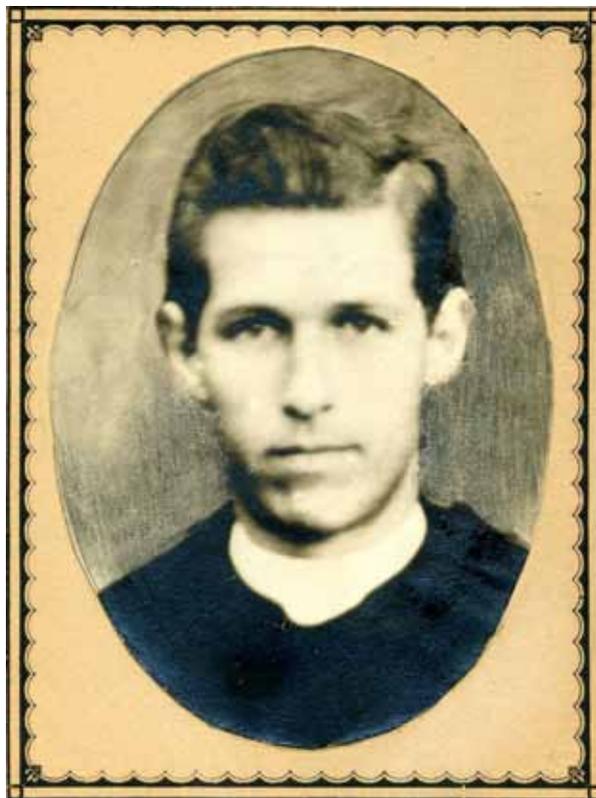
Frater Edmund spent the next two years studying for the priesthood, managing the infirmary, working in the sacristy, and helping with the construction of the new monastic cemetery on the north side of the abbey which was completed in 1934.

During the 1933-34 school year, Frater Edmund was frequently absent from classes because of illness brought on by cerebral and spinal disorders. While visiting Father Peter Post at St. Boniface rectory in Fort Smith, Arkansas, on July 15, 1934, Frater Edmund became extremely ill, suffering a violent headache. He was taken to St. Edward's Hospital in Fort Smith where his illness was diagnosed as encephalitis.

Hospitalized for the next three days, Frater Edmund did not rally, remaining unconscious most of the time. Father Peter Post administered the Last Rites, and family members as well as the pastor of his home parish, Father Francis Dollarton, and Father Prior Ignatius Bodmayr were at his bedside.

Frater Edmund died at 11:45 a.m. on Wednesday, July 18, 1934, at St. Edward's Hospital in Fort Smith, Arkansas.

At the time of his death, Frater Edmund was 23 years old and in the 2nd year of his monastic profession. He is buried in our cemetery.



Footnote: Reinterment in the new monastic cemetery of the bodies of the monks who were buried at the original monastery site was carried out by 1934. Thus, Frater Edmund, one of the monks who had helped in the construction of the new monastic cemetery, was the first community member to be buried in it alongside the reinterred bodies of the monks from the original cemetery begun in 1881.

Two of Frater Edmund's sisters entered religious life: Sister Rosaire, O.S.U., and Sister Teresina, O.S.B.