

## Father Clement Schmidt

July 20th is the anniversary of the death of Father Clement Schmidt. Anthony Schmidt was born in Verona, Missouri, on January 27, 1909. He received his elementary education at Sacred Heart School in Verona. He then attended two years at Verona High School before transferring to the high school department of Conception College in Conception, Missouri, where he graduated with the class of 1927.

Anthony then studied at Conception College for two years before coming to Subiaco where he was admitted to the novitiate on September 15, 1927. He professed his vows as a monk of our monastery on September 16, 1930, receiving the name Clement.

Frater Clement studied theology at Subiaco and philosophy at St. John's University in Collegeville, Minnesota, where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1932.

He was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop John B. Morris at St. Andrew's Cathedral in Little Rock on May 30, 1935. He celebrated his first Mass at Sacred Heart Church in Verona, Missouri, on June 4, 1935.

After ordination, Father Clement attended St. Louis University where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in biology. It was in this field that Father Clement was known as an outstanding teacher and a progressive educator.

Most of Father Clement's life as a monk of our community was spent in teaching and administration at Subiaco Academy, which he headed as principal from 1941 to 1953. During this time he guided the school's fastest period of growth in its history, doing so in the especially difficult years of World War II when the demands for new school services were equaled only by the wartime difficulties of providing them.

Following his years as principal here, Father Clement was sent to north Texas where he fulfilled the same office at Laneri High School in Fort Worth. He then went to south Texas where he was on the faculty of Corpus Christi Academy. From these assignments he returned to Arkansas, again joining the faculty of the academy in teaching science and mathematics. Father Clement also supervised the operations of the abbey farm.

For Father Clement, parochial ministry, other than brief substitution work, came later in his lifetime. From 1966 to 1967 he cared for the mission of St. Anthony's Church in Ratcliff, Arkansas, and for some months at St. John's Church in Russellville, Arkansas. In 1968, he was appointed pastor of St. Joseph's Church, Rhineland, Texas, where he served until his death in 1970.

In the summer of 1970, Father Clement went to St. John's Hospital in Springfield, Missouri, near the area of his original family home, for needed vascular surgery to correct blockage in his right leg. Father Clement died unexpectedly at St. John's Hospital on Monday, July 20, 1970, from a heart attack following major surgery.

The body of Father Clement was taken to Monett, Missouri, to lie in state, followed by a Mass for him in his parish church at Verona, Missouri, with Father Paul Hoedebeck and Father Bruno Fuhrmann representing the abbey.

At the time of his death, Father Clement was 61 years old and in the 39th year of his monastic profession, the 35th of his priesthood. He is buried in our cemetery.

