

Brother Vincent Klein

August 14th is the anniversary of the death of Br. Vincent Klein. Patrick Vincent Klein was born July 9, 1948 in Topeka, Kansas. He was the eldest of six children born to the late Joseph Paul Klein and Anastasia Fuhrmann Klein. His three brothers, two sisters and his mother were living in the family's hometown of Topeka at the time of his death. Young Patrick received his elementary education at Sacred Heart School in Topeka.

In the fall of 1962, Patrick Klein enrolled at Subiaco Academy, graduating with the Class of 1966. During his time at the Academy, Patrick began discerning a vocation to the religious life. Patrick was encouraged and helped in the process by a great uncle, Fr. Vincent Orth, an uncle, Father Bruno Fuhrmann, and Father Fintan Oldham, all monks of Subiaco Abbey. Following his graduation in 1966, he joined other Subiaco students at the then existing Subiaco House of Studies in St. Louis where he attended St. Louis University, working toward a bachelor's degree in history. Patrick was accepted into the novitiate on September 7, 1968, and professed his first vows the following year on September

8, 1969, receiving the name Vincent. During the entire time of his formation, Brother Vincent continued his college studies at St. Louis University until 1970, and at St. Benedict's College, Atchison, Kansas, from September 1970–May 1971. In May 1971 he received his bachelor's degree in history. From September 1972–December 1973, Brother Vincent attended Catholic University of America in Washington, DC, where he received his master's degree in library science. In January 1974, Brother Vincent returned to Atchison for teacher certification training and received his certification in secondary education in December 1974. Later, he took two correspondence courses, one from the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville and the other from University of Central Arkansas in Conway.

Brother Vincent served our community as archivist, librarian, teacher, secretary to the Abbey Council, and an assistant groundskeeper. He served as the abbey's archivist from 1975 until his death. He was librarian for both the Abbey and Academy libraries from 1975–1985. From 1985–1990, Brother Vincent taught history, US government, and religious studies courses in Subiaco Academy. In 1990, he resumed his duties as librarian for the Academy and continued with this assignment until his death. He also served as secretary to the Abbey Council, and during the spring and summer months could often be found assisting with grounds work.

Brother Vincent possessed a quiet zeal and tenacity which contributed positively to the quality of faithfulness he dedicated to his life of prayer and work. His ability to point out the location of books in the library, as well as his remarkable memory and recall of events, details, and other information greatly impressed – and occasionally astounded – Academy students and faculty, his confreres, and guests. In his free time, Brother Vincent was faithful to exercise, and particularly enjoyed taking long afternoon walks after a typical work day in the Academy. Quiet and reserved in temperament, Brother Vincent was very interested in and aware of what was going on within the monastic community and among the individual monks. Brother Vincent was also faithful in attending athletic and other extracurricular events sponsored by the Academy. He enjoyed television in strict moderation, mainly light comedy, drama, and professional football; and was an enthusiastic fan of the Kansas City Chiefs, as well as following other favorite pro football teams of his confreres.



On May 22, 2009, Brother Vincent was diagnosed with colon cancer that had metastasized to his liver. The news shocked and saddened his confreres and the Subiaco community. Shortly after the initial impact of the news of his illness, Brother Vincent quietly, calmly and courageously placed himself and his well-being in the hands of God. Brother Vincent's example of quiet faith and hope in the love and mercy of God during his suffering remains an inspiration to the Subiaco community. At the time of his death, Brother Vincent was 61 years old and in the 39th year of his monastic profession. He is buried in our cemetery.