

## Father David Flusche

September 30th is the anniversary of the death of Father David Flusche. Jerome Flusche was born in Denison, Texas, on July 16, 1920. He attended St. Xavier Academy in his hometown until 1935 when he came to Subiaco Academy in his junior year, graduating with the class of 1937.

Following graduation, he returned to Denison, Texas, where he was employed as a bank bookkeeper until 1940 when he returned to Subiaco to enter monastic life.

Jerome Flusche professed his vows as a monk of our monastery on September 14, 1941, receiving the name David. He was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Albert L. Fletcher at St. Andrew Cathedral in Little Rock on June 15, 1946.

Following ordination, Father David was on the faculty of Subiaco Academy until 1953. Part of this time he also served as scholasticate prefect and Oblate director. His duties also included being administrator of the abbey's print shop for many years.

During the mid-1950s he was pastor of St. Scholastica Church, Shoal Creek, Arkansas, and in 1958 was appointed editor of *The Abbey Message*.

In 1960 Father David was the first priest to receive a Master of Arts degree from the University of Arkansas. In the early 1960s he served as novice master and became the Superior of the Subiaco House of Studies in St. Louis, Missouri, from 1965-1967.

When he returned to the abbey from St. Louis his duties were director of formation, monastic chapter secretary, *Abbey Message* editor, faculty member, and retreat master at Coury House.

By 1970 Father David became a retreat master to clergy and religious in approximately 30 states. Throughout this time, he served as spiritual director to the Sisters in three religious communities.

In addition, he worked in the diocesan apostolates of Cursillo, Marriage Encounter, and Beginning Experience, and also conducted Scripture workshops throughout the state. Father David frequently contributed articles to *The Arkansas Catholic* and other publications, and was highly regarded as a spiritual writer.

With a full agenda of commitments, Father David also served as development director for the abbey from 1981 to 1986 and was reappointed Oblate director in 1988, serving until 1995.

Failing health caused him to retire from active ministry in 1995. The following year, progressive ataxia brought about his full retirement in the monastic Health Center.

Except for the two-year assignment in St. Louis, he spent his entire religious life at the abbey.

Father David is notably remembered for his position as editor of *The Abbey Message* from 1958 until 1995. He was editor longer than any other monk in the publication's history. Upon his retirement in 1995, the Publications Center was officially dedicated in his honor.

In 1995 Father David wrote: "My career with *The Abbey Message* began when I was a novice....Or I could say it began with a misreading of an assignment. The superiors assigned me to help with the painting; but I thought they said 'printing,' so by mistake I reported to the print shop and quickly became a printer.

"Reflecting on my years as editor, I believe my hardest task was reporting the illness or death of one with whom I had shared the Benedictine life at Subiaco. I knew that whatever I would say could not reveal the depth of his life and vocation. In those instances, I thought of the monk in heaven laughing at my efforts to describe him. Thus, I have always found it easier to write about faith...."



Strengthened with the sacraments and the prayers of his brother monks, Father David died peacefully in his room in the monastic Health Center at 7:29 p.m. on Wednesday, September 30, 1998, of cerebral vascular accident.

On Saturday, October 3, Abbot Jerome Kodell was celebrant and homilist for the 10:00 a.m. Mass of Christian burial and performed the final obsequies.

At the time of his death, Father David was 78 years old and in the 57th year of his monastic profession, the 52nd of his priesthood. He is buried in our cemetery.