

Father Alcuin Kubis

October 2nd is the anniversary of the death of Father Alcuin Kubis. Ambrose Kubis was born in Lindsay, Texas, on September 9, 1908. He received his elementary education at St. Peter's School in Lindsay, Texas. He entered our high school scholasticate in 1922, the year it was formed, graduating from our academy with the class of 1926.

Ambrose Kubis professed his vows as a monk of our monastery on October 5, 1927, receiving the name Alcuin. He was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop John B. Morris at St. Andrew's Cathedral in Little Rock on May 21, 1932.

Following ordination, Father Alcuin was a faculty member and dean in our academy until 1941. He was then assigned to Corpus Christi Academy, in Corpus Christi, Texas, where he was on the teaching staff and was head coach of basketball, football, and baseball until 1954. During summer months he took coaching lessons from Bear Bryant of Texas A. & M. University and Frank Leahy of Notre Dame University.

Father Alcuin was recalled to Arkansas in 1954 to serve as pastor of St. Ignatius Parish in Scranton. In 1958 he returned to Texas for his assignment as pastor of St. Peter's parish in Lindsay, his home parish, where he also began a very successful football program at Lindsay High School.

His next assignment was pastor of Sacred Heart parish in Muenster, Texas, serving from 1960 to 1968. During his pastorate, the parish celebrated its seventy-fifth jubilee in 1964.

Father Alcuin returned to Arkansas in 1968 to serve as pastor of St. Edward's parish in Little Rock and remained there until 1983 when he was appointed pastor of Sts. Peter and Paul parish in Morrison Bluff, serving for 14 years. This was his final pastorate as advanced age and illness brought about his retirement.

Returning to the abbey in 1997, Father Alcuin retired to the monastic Health Center where he remained interested in the welfare of all the monks and shared in common meals with the community daily. At times he offered Mass in his wheelchair at a simple table in his room.

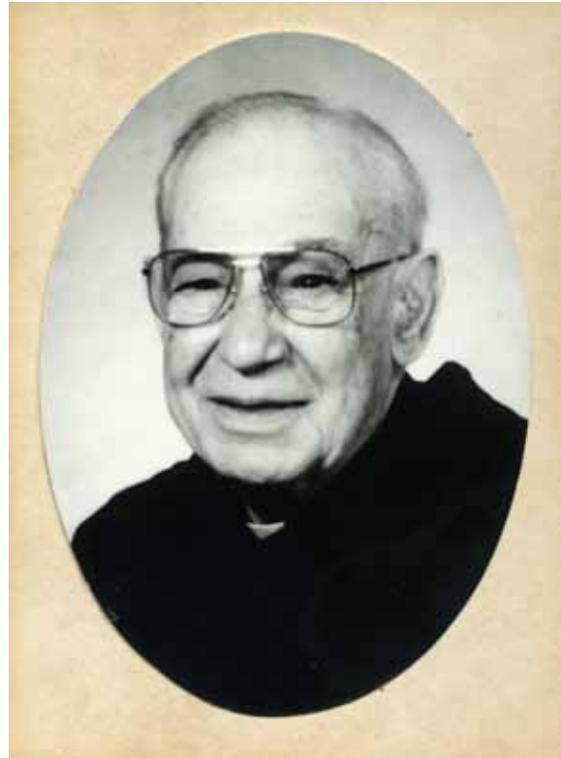
Father Alcuin worked in our apostolates for 65 years. Throughout his life, he enjoyed participation in sports activities, including hunting and fishing. He was sharp at gin rummy, and he kept up a wide correspondence with friends and former parishioners. He especially loved Christmastide with its festivities surrounding the liturgical and family celebration of the season.

Father Alcuin said: "My first cousin, Frank Weiss, encouraged me to become a monk." Father Alcuin was one of seven young men who were ordained to the priesthood from the graduating class of 1926. "Be patient," is Father Alcuin's advice for anyone seeking a vocation in the priesthood or religious life.

Commenting on his seven decades of monastic life, Father Alcuin said: "St. Benedict opens the door for a lifelong search for God, whatever work you may be assigned. I'm grateful to be a Benedictine and a priest."

Strengthened with the sacraments and the prayers of his brother monks, Father Alcuin died peacefully in his room in the monastic Health Center of congestive heart failure at 2:30 p.m. on Friday, October 2, 1998. He was alert and fully engaged with life to the final moment.

"He lived until he died" were the words used by one of the monastic Health Center nurses to describe Father Alcuin after his peaceful death. She said this because he was alert and fully engaged with life until his last moments. He endeared himself with the Health Center nurses because of his kindness and gentle spirit.



He will always be fondly remembered by the Health Center staff as a man who could easily say “thank you” for any assistance given him. For example, during the last few months of his life, Father Alcuin needed the assistance of a nurse to move about in his room; when the nurses came each time to help him, they would often find that several pieces of candy had mysteriously appeared on his table as a token of his appreciation.

On Tuesday, October 6, 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 Alcuin was 90 years old and in the 71st year of his monastic profession, the 66th of his priesthood. He is buried in our cemetery.