

## Brother Tobias De Salvo

January 18 is the anniversary of the death of Brother Tobias De Salvo. Raphael De Salvo was born on Sunday, June 30, 1946 in Center Ridge, Arkansas to Anthony “Tony” Luke De Salvo and Frances Paladino De Salvo. He was the 18th of 19 children. Raphael received his elementary education at Catholic Point School in Center Ridge. Desiring to enter religious life, following in the footsteps of his older half-brother, Abbot Raphael De Salvo and uncle, Father Christopher Paladino, Raphael completed his secondary education at Subiaco Academy, graduating with the class of 1963.

In September, 1963, he began two years of studies at St. Bernard College in Cullman, Alabama, as a part of a preparatory program for candidates for Subiaco Abbey. Raphael was invested as a novice in September of 1965, and a year later professed his vows as a monk of our monastery on the Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, September 8, 1966, receiving the name Tobias.

In 1968 Brother Tobias continued his education while residing at the Subiaco Abbey House of Studies near the campus of St. Louis University where he earned a bachelor’s degree in theology in the spring of 1968.

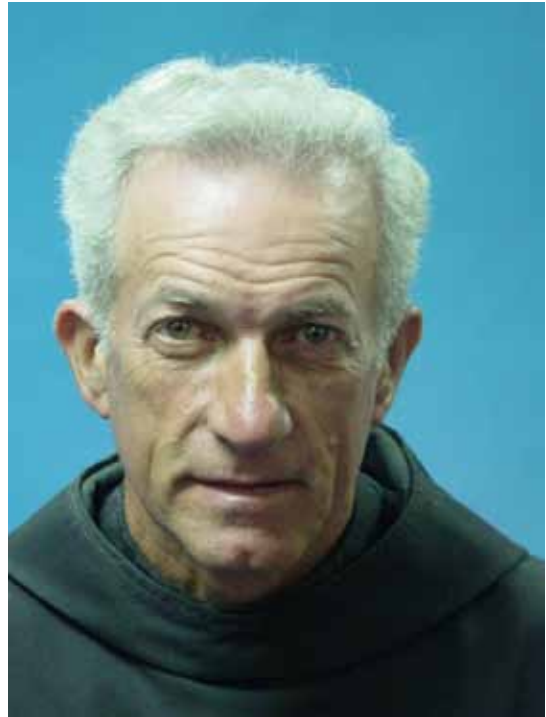
Returning to the abbey, Brother Tobias began a long career as teacher and dean at Subiaco Academy, teaching both religion and driver’s education from 1968 until 1993. His students noted his attention to detail, but also his ability to fall asleep while they were driving. He served as dean in Heard Hall from 1969 until 1992, making a classic team for most of that time with Father Carleton Sheehan. Talented in mechanical matters, Brother Tobias was placed in charge of maintaining the Academy vehicles from 1978 until 1999, and was one of the regular bus drivers.

Along with his duties in the Academy, he was also appointed as caretaker of the Abbey vineyard and cellar in 1971, making use of another talent he had learned from his father, namely that of wine-making, providing table and Mass wine for the Abbey. In 1999 he was relieved of his duties in the vineyard, but he continued to manage the cellar until his death.

In 1991, Brother Tobias celebrated his silver jubilee of monastic profession. He was appointed Director of Facilities in 1992. In this capacity he managed the maintenance department of the Abbey and Academy until 1999. In May, 1999, Brother Tobias was assigned to Santa Familia Monastery in Belize, Central America, for one year.

In June, 2000, Brother Tobias was assigned to the Abbey Farm, which at that time was in the very early stages of putting together a registered Black Angus herd. Besides the constant need for care and feeding of these animals, Brother Tobias spent many hours on the tractor, caring for the pastures and baling and storing the hay that would be needed during the winter and mending the fences that are always in need of repair.

Throughout his years at the abbey, Brother Tobias was active in the Marriage Encounter Movement in Arkansas, and served on numerous Encounter weekend teams. He also worked with many Catholic youth groups as counselor in various programs and served as coordinator of religious education for the Subiaco Deanery for several years.



Only two months before his death, Brother Tobias was discovered to have a large cancerous tumor in his stomach. Throughout his final ordeal he continued to work hard at recovering in the same way he had worked at everything he attempted throughout his life.

Strengthened with the sacraments and the prayers of his confreres, Brother Tobias died on Sunday afternoon, January 18, 2009, at St. Edward Medical Center in Fort Smith, surrounded by monks and eight of his thirteen surviving siblings.

At the time of his death, Brother Tobias was 62 years old. He had been a professed monk for 42 years. He is buried in our cemetery.