

## Father George Binkert

March 9th is the anniversary of the death of Father George Binkert. Sigismund Binkert was born on December 1, 1869, in the town of Littau, Canton Luzern, Switzerland. He was the youngest son of Eduard and Katharina Binkert. He professed his vows as a monk of Einsiedeln on September 8, 1893, receiving the name George. He was ordained to the priesthood on June 4, 1898.

From 1898 to 1904 he taught in the Abbey School at Einsiedeln. On April 7, 1904, he was sent as a missionary to our monastery, traveling to the United States in the company of Father Matthew Saettele.

During his quarter-century tenure at Subiaco, Father George served as pastor of St. Benedict's Parish in Subiaco, and as a teacher in our academy and seminary. He also served as Brother Instructor and librarian.

From 1928 to 1934 Father George was an assistant theology professor on the faculty of the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio. At the same time he was the spiritual director for many seminarians studying there, including our future Father Meinrad Marbaugh.

Father George remained a capitular of Einsiedeln Abbey in Switzerland, where he returned in 1934 following 30 years of service in the United States. Through the years he corresponded with Abbot Paul and other monks here at Subiaco.

Father George died at 5:15 a.m. on Wednesday, March 9, 1949. At the time of his death, Father George was 79 years old and in the 55th year of his monastic profession, the 50th of his priesthood. He is buried at the Abbey of Maria Einsiedeln in Switzerland.

*We have no photo of Fr. George Binkert who while at Subiaco remained a member of Einsiedeln Abbey and returned there in 1934.*