

Brother Patrick Hogan

March 21st is the anniversary of the death of Brother Patrick Hogan. Michael Hogan was born in Lebanon, Missouri, on December 21, 1918. He received his elementary and secondary education in the public schools of Lebanon, and spent his early youth on the family farm. He served in the U. S. Army from 1942-45 and was awarded a World War II Victory Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, and the American Campaign Medal. While in the army he often assisted the chaplain by preparing the altar and serving Mass.

After the war he completed a course of study at a Missouri typewriter school. At this time, Father James Foley, a member of this community and a native of Michael's hometown, spoke to him about Subiaco Abbey and wrote a letter of recommendation to Abbot Paul Nahlen.

Michael Hogan professed his vows as a monk of our monastery on March 19, 1950, receiving the name Patrick. From the beginning of his religious life, Brother Patrick cultivated devotion to the Blessed Sacrament and the Mother of God.

For five decades he served our community as refectorian, groundskeeper, house custodian, and laundry worker. He also mended bed linens and clothing, and for a time, assisted in the care of the sick and elderly monks.

During the Holy Year of 1975, Brother Patrick made a pilgrimage to Europe. Always interested in the salvation of others, he distributed reams of religious literature, books, magazines, and pamphlets; he also gave guided tours of Subiaco Abbey. One of his tour "specialties" was his explanation of the Abbey Church windows depicting the mysteries of the rosary, and scenes from the life of St. Benedict.

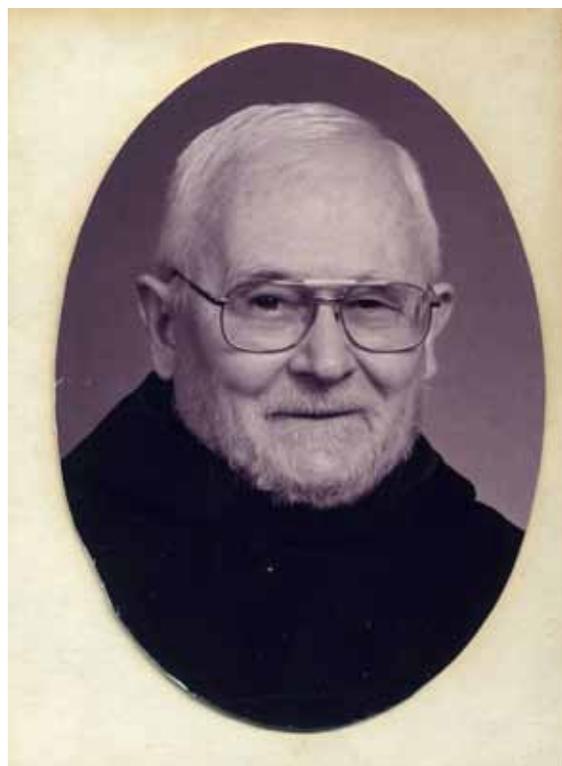
In 1997, Brother Patrick was diagnosed as having early stages of geriatric dementia. He moved to the Monastic Health Center and was assisted with daily living tasks as his illness progressed. With professional care he received in the Health Center with its fitness program, Brother Patrick was never bedfast. He continued to pray the rosary with the monks in the Health Center and attended Mass and other community exercises as he was able.

In the spring of 2000, on the occasion of his 50th anniversary of religious profession, Brother Patrick was the honoree of an open house party in the Health Center with family, friends, and community members in attendance.

Brother Patrick died peacefully in his sleep at 5:55 a.m. on St. Benedict's Day, March 21, 2004, in his room in the monastic Health Center. There had been no indication that he was in any pain the evening before so his sudden death of cardiac arrhythmia was unexpected.

During the latter years of his life, Brother Patrick had asked that his passport be placed on file in the Abbot's office for safe keeping. In checking the file after Brother Patrick's death, Abbot Jerome Kodell made the coincidental discovery that the expiration date on the passport was March, 2004—the exact month and year of Brother Patrick's death.

On Tuesday, March 23, 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, Brother Patrick was 85 years old and in the 54th year of his monastic profession. He is buried in our cemetery.