

## Father Matthew Wiederkehr

March 28th is the anniversary of the death of Father Matthew Wiederkehr. Michael Wiederkehr was born in Youngstown, Ohio, on August 27, 1907. Michael and his sister Helen were orphaned in 1916 when their mother died. The two children were raised by an uncle and aunt living in Altus, Arkansas: Mr. and Mrs. Sigmund Wiederkehr.

Michael completed his elementary education in Altus before coming to our academy in 1923. He graduated with the class of 1927 and in the autumn of that year he entered the novitiate.

He professed his vows as a monk of our monastery on October 5, 1928, receiving the name Matthew; his seminary studies were taken at Subiaco and at St. John's University in Collegeville, Minnesota. He was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop John B. Morris at St. Andrew's Cathedral in Little Rock on May 25, 1933.

His priestly ministry was divided between parochial work and teaching. He was on the faculty at Subiaco Academy until 1936, when he was sent to St. Joseph's Church, Rhineland, Texas, as assistant pastor. In 1937 he was appointed pastor and served for four years.

In 1941 Father Matthew was assigned to Corpus Christi Academy where he remained on the faculty until 1956, when he returned to the faculty of the academy here at Subiaco. Following the completion of the abbey church in 1959, he became building superintendent for the completion of the northeast wing of the abbey.

He served as pastor of St. Benedict's Church at Subiaco from 1962 to 1964, and at Sacred Heart in Charleston from 1964 to 1968. From 1969 until his death he was assistant at St. Patrick's Church in Dallas, Texas.

Father Matthew died quietly and suddenly at St. Patrick's rectory in Dallas, Texas, on Monday, March 28, 1977. He died of a heart attack while asleep in his room where he had retired Sunday night after fulfilling his parochial duties as assistant pastor at the parish.

A Mass was held at St. Patrick's Church in Dallas on Wednesday, March 30, for Father Matthew.

At the time of his death, Father Matthew was 69 years old and in the 48th year of his monastic profession, the 43rd of his priesthood. He is buried in our cemetery.

