

Father Brendan McGuire

September 21st is the anniversary of the death of Father Brendan McGuire. Thomas McGuire was born in St. Paul, Minnesota, on February 24, 1922. Soon thereafter his family moved to Washington state. In Auburn, Washington, he attended the public grade and high schools.

Later, he attended the University of Seattle, graduating in 1943. After graduation he served in the medical corps of the U.S. Navy from 1943 to 1945. He was a narcoanalyst at Shadel Sanitarium from 1945 to 1949.

In 1949, Tom McGuire came to Subiaco entering our college department in preparation for joining the monastic community. He professed his vows as a monk of our monastery on September 14, 1952, receiving the name Brendan. He was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Albert L. Fletcher at St. Andrew's Cathedral in Little Rock on May 26, 1956.

Father Brendan served on the academy faculty from 1956 to 1975 in the science department. Meanwhile, he continued his education by taking graduate courses at the Universities of Notre Dame, St. Louis, and Texas Christian, earning a Master of Science degree. From 1965 to 1967 he was Dean of Men, and for several years he was also infirmarian of the academy and abbey.

In 1975, Father Brendan was assigned to pastoral work. He was assistant pastor at St. Edward Church in Little Rock from 1975 to 1977. He was then appointed pastor of St. Scholastica Church in Shoal Creek from 1977 to 1978. His next pastorate was at St. Joseph Church in Rhineland, Texas, from 1978 to 1983.

Father Brendan then returned to Arkansas to become pastor of St. Ignatius Church in Scranton and its mission in Prairie View, serving from 1983 until his retirement because of ill health in early 1985.

Back at the abbey, Father Brendan began to set up a landscaping plan for the Subiaco grounds, but heart and respiratory problems continued to weaken him and he was unable to complete the project.

During a two-week stay at North Logan Mercy Memorial Hospital in Paris, Arkansas, Father Brendan died quietly early Saturday morning, September 21, 1985, due to heart failure.

At the time of his death, Father Brendan was 63 years old and in the 33rd year of his monastic profession, the 29th of his priesthood. He is buried in our cemetery.

