

Father Bruno Fuhrmann

January 24th is the anniversary of the death of Father Bruno Fuhrmann. Bernard Fuhrmann was born in Gainesville, Texas, on July 31, 1929. He was the youngest son of Joseph and Mary (Orth) Fuhrmann. He attended St. Peter's Elementary School in Lindsay, Texas, and came to Subiaco Academy in 1943 where he joined his brother, Br. Michael. Bernard graduated with the class of 1947.

He entered the novitiate of Subiaco Abbey in 1948, making his religious profession September 15, 1949, receiving the name Bruno. He was ordained to the priesthood on May 16, 1954, at Subiaco Abbey by Bishop Albert L. Fletcher of the Diocese of Little Rock.

Father Bruno held a variety of positions since his ordination. He taught at Subiaco Academy for one year while serving as pastor of St. Scholastica Church in Shoal Creek, Arkansas.

In 1956-57 he was pastor of St. Mary Church, Altus, Arkansas. From 1957-65 he served as Assistant Pastor of Sacred Heart Church, Muenster, Texas. While in Muenster, he was also assigned to the teaching and administration staff of Sacred Heart High School.

After returning from Texas, Father Bruno served as Assistant Pastor of St. Edward Church, Little Rock, followed by pastorates at St. Scholastica Church, Shoal Creek, and Sacred Heart Church, Charleston, respectively.

In addition he held the important post of Abbey Procurator and Treasurer from 1974-1990, serving the community as a Consultor for most of those years.

From 1992 to 2002, Father Bruno served as a missionary at Santa Familia Monastery, Belize, Central America. He did pastoral work in the village of Santa Familia as well as in St. Ignatius Parish in Santa Elena Town.

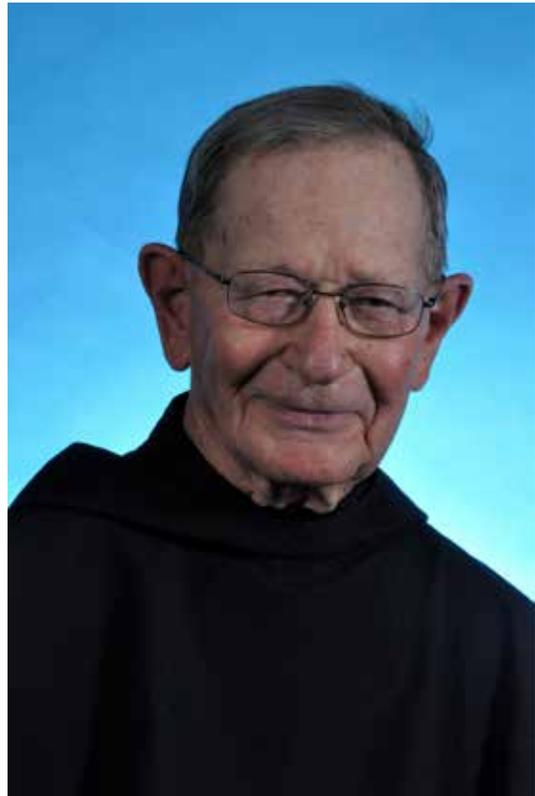
At the monastery Father Bruno worked in the garden raising beans, cabbage, lettuce, radishes, corn, peanuts, jalapeno and Habanero peppers. These foods supplied some of the needs of the monastery and retreat center. Father Bruno was one of the pioneers of the famous Santa Familia Monastery Hot Sauce; he grew the peppers and assisted in the cooking and bottling of this "hell fire." His talents as a mechanic were also put to good use in repairing tools, etc.

Of his decade's work in Belize, Father Bruno said that he is indebted to the Belizean people for their kindness to him and for the many things he was able to learn from them.

On his return to the United States, Father Bruno served as pastor of St. Ignatius Church, Scranton, Arkansas, from 2002-03, the last Subiaco Abbey priest to serve in this parish. In May of 2003 he was appointed pastor of Our Lady of Assumption Church, Booneville, Arkansas, with residence at Subiaco Abbey. During the weekdays he worked a few hours at the sawmill with his older brother, Brother Michael, and assisted with other duties on the Abbey Farm.

From early childhood Father Bruno's favorite outdoor pastime was fishing. Wherever he was stationed, he always found time to go "fishin'". Many stories recounted his expertise as a fisherman, and Fr. Bruno laughed as long and as well as those who told the stories. To the end he still enjoyed supplying fish for the monastic tables.

Evening recreation would find Father Bruno ready to challenge an opponent at ping-pong, pool, cards, or dominos. At 88 years of age, Father Bruno still greeted each new day with a big smile.



While serving as pastor in Booneville, Fr. Bruno celebrated his 50th sacerdotal jubilee in 2004. His one request to those preparing the celebration meal was that frog legs be served!

In 2016 Fr. Bruno was diagnosed with prostate cancer. While receiving treatments he continued his daily trip to the sawmill, where logs were turned into countless board feet of lumber for use in our carpentry shop or for sale.

About one month before his death, Fr. Bruno began a steady but rapid decline. He asked for the Sacrament of the Sick, which Abbot Leonard administered with many community members in attendance.

At the time of his death in 2018, Father Bruno was 88 years old and in the 68th year of his monastic profession, the 63rd of his priesthood. He is buried in our cemetery.