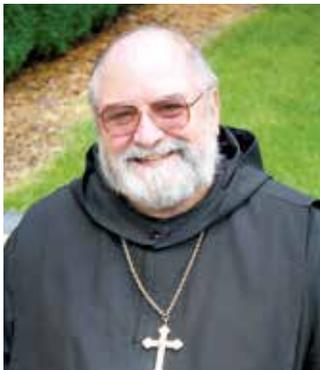


Abbey Views



Hello Friends,

I HOPE YOU HAD A WONDERFUL LENT AND EASTER SEASON. It seems appropriate that the end of the Easter Season of hope coincides with the dismissal of the Abbey Fields lawsuit. I am grateful for the cooperation of all the involved parties in resolving the lawsuit. All of us at St. Bede feel greatly relieved. At the same time,

I regret that the people who expressed a serious desire to live at Abbey Fields now have to look elsewhere.

In other Abbey news, Brother David is continuing his studies to become an English teacher in the Academy. Brother Luke who has very creatively taught Science in the Academy is going back to school to pursue studies to be a nurse. He is not sure of his ultimate goal, but I am certain he will study hard and, with his compassionate personality, will be a very good nurse. Brother Robert is now our vocation director. He is taking the summer to develop a vocation program that will be implemented in the next year. Father Michael has completed his first year with the Monk's Market website and is busy adding new products. We hope the business will grow and help support us.

On a sad note, Father Roger died in May, and his death is a real loss to the community because he was so friendly and supportive. I am deeply grateful for all he did for St. Bede.

Please pray for St. Bede Abbey and Academy as we continue to plan for the future. Every day the monks pray for our friends and benefactors. God bless you!

Abbot Philip Davey, O.S.B.



Dr. Tara (Van De Wyngaerde) Gross '00 and her children, Ella and Gavin, visit with Santa at the Bedan Club's Breakfast with Santa fundraiser.



Monk's Market, the sales outlet of St. Bede Abbey, offers many items produced by St. Bede monks such as handmade candles by Fr. Patrick and cookbooks written by Fr. Dominic, as well as a number of items for resale from other religious communities.

Shop online at www.monksmarket.com.

Do Unto Others

St. Bede Chaplain, Father Ronald Margherio, O.S.B. and eleven students from St. Bede Academy went on a mission last July to Covington, KY. This trip gave our students the opportunity to step out of their environment and focus on service for an entire week, with time for prayer and reflection.

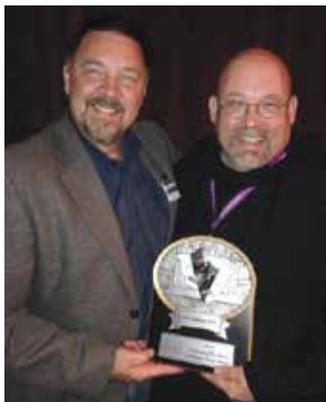
Sister Cathy Bauer, O.S.B., a social worker from St. Walburg Monastery in Covington, KY coordinated the service projects for the week. Through the "Living Out Loud" program, our students worked directly with less fortunate individuals and put names and faces to the homeless and those in need. Students worked in soup kitchens, food pantries, daycare centers, homeless shelters, and one afternoon, even some demolition was done of walls in a home that was being rebuilt.

Every day included prayer and reflection on what our students experienced that day. Prayers always began by mentioning the names of those they met that day, and time was spent sharing those experiences with one another.

I've learned, most importantly, to appreciate everything I have. Some people don't have a bed to go home to every night. I am so blessed to have a home, loving family, and income for meals.
—Jordan Brolley



Father Ronald and students on their mission trip.



Jonathan Meier, member of ITA presents Father Dominic Garramone (right) with award.

Congratulations Father Dominic Garramone, O.S.B.

On September 13, 2014, Father Dominic Garramone, O.S.B. was honored as the recipient of the Illinois Theatre Association's 2014 Award of Excellence in Secondary School Theatre. Father Dominic majored in theatre at Illinois Wesleyan and Saint Mary's University in Winona, MN. 2015 marks 30 years for Father Dominic as the drama director and stage manager for St. Bede, producing over 150 shows during that period. Father Dominic and the St. Bede "Stage Rats," as they are known, have written dozens of plays for the Academy, two of which, *The Monsters Under the Bed* and *What I Wanted to Say*, have been published by Dramatic Publishing, Inc. His first production was *Tails of the Scarlet Parrot*.

Father Dominic has also been selected as one of Saint Mary's 100 alumni that will be featured during their Centennial. 100 alumni for their 100th year were nominated and selected for this honor. With more than 42,000 Saint Mary's alumni, the recipients were chosen based on those living the Saint Mary's mission of service, leadership, and transforming other's lives and making a positive difference in their communication and beyond.

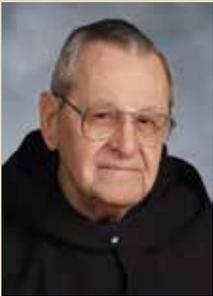
Golden Jubilee Rev. Harold Datzman, O.S.B.

Rev. Harold Datzman, O.S.B. celebrated 50 years in priesthood on Sunday, May 24, 2015. His golden anniversary was celebrated with a Mass at St. Joseph Church in Peru, one of the parishes where he served as pastor and/or assistant pastor over the past 40 years. He graduated from St. Bede in 1956 and found more than an education. It was during his senior year at St. Bede that he decided to become a priest. Father Harold was ordained on May 23, 1965 by Bishop John B. Franz at St. Mary's Cathedral in Peoria. After studying two years at St. Bede Junior College, he professed his vows as a monk in 1959. After completing his theology studies at St. John's University, Conception Abbey, he earned his master's degree at the University of Detroit. He was assigned to St. Joseph Church in Peru and was parochial vicar there from 1977-1984. He then served as pastor and administrator in Cherry, Arlington, Dalzell, Ladd, and Seatonville before returning to St. Joseph's Church where he has been pastor since 2005.



Members of the class of '56 at Fr. Harold's reception.
 (left to right, front row) Ron Mini, Ken Sondegroth, Father Harold, Ed Tallon, Dennis Ryan (left to right, back row) Gene Lesniak, Dr. Franklin Jasielk, Jerry Budreau, Atty. Paul Perona, Tom Schellenberger, Al Herrmann, Tom Cleary, and Ed Phelan

Father Henry Fritz, O.S.B.



Father Henry Fritz, O.S.B. died Sunday morning, July 6, 2014, at St. Margaret's Hospital, Spring Valley, several days after suffering from a severe stroke. He generously served St. Bede Abbey and the diocese of Peoria for almost 70 years. He was 89.

Father Henry was born April 3, 1925, the son of Henry and Marie Fritz, in Chicago, Illinois. The family moved to Pontiac in 1926, where Henry entered St. Mary's Grade School and worked a variety of farm jobs. After attending high school and college at St. Bede, where he was very much involved in religious activities and athletics, he entered the novitiate at St. John's Abbey, Collegeville, MN in 1945. He received a BA from St. John's University and a master's in economics from Notre Dame. He made his first profession of vows on July 11, 1946, took his solemn vows on July 11, 1949, and was ordained a priest May 22, 1952.

Father Henry worked at St. Bede Academy for 33 years. He taught history, political science and economics from 1952 until 1977, when he was appointed principal. He also served as guidance counselor, yearbook moderator, and the first softball coach when softball was introduced as the first interscholastic sport for girls. While Father Henry would have been the first person to admit he couldn't sing and knew very little about music, he, with great gusto, did a stint as band director. During his tenure as principal, he instituted the annual dinner auction in support of the Academy.

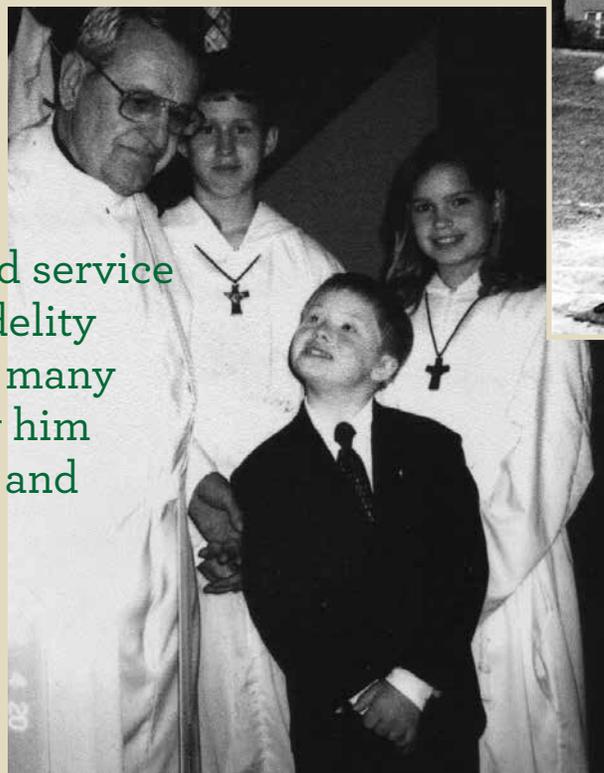
In 1985 he began a series of parish assignments throughout the Peoria diocese, including assistant, St. Mary, Pontiac, 1985; pastor, St. Peter, Peoria, 1986; St. Francis, Kewanee, and St. John, Cambridge, 1987 and again in 2010-2012; St. Joseph, Peru, 1994; pastor, St. Joseph, Peru, and administrator, St. Mary, Peru, 2001; pastor, St. Benedict, Ladd, 2005. Father Henry was tireless in his service at these parishes. When the new rectory was being built at St. Joseph's he lived in a windowless room in the gym to save money. After he retired to the abbey in 2012 he continued to be in contact with people from the parishes he served.



Father Henry coaching softball.

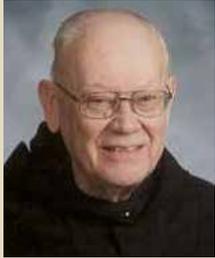


Father Henry's wholehearted service in so many forms and his fidelity to prayer were a blessing to many people. I think all who knew him would say, "Well done good and faithful servant." Mt. 25:23



Father Henry with the Payton Family.

Father Roger Corpus, O.S.B.



Father Roger Corpus, O.S.B. priest and retired abbot of St. Bede Abbey, passed away peacefully on Sunday, May 24, 2015. He was 84.

He was born in Peru Illinois on July 14, 1930, to Francis and Honorine Corpus, and was named Francis after his father. He had one sister, Charlene, and he remained very close with her and her family throughout his life. He attended grade school at St. Joseph's parish school, followed by high school and junior college at St. Bede. He entered the monastic

community in 1950 and professed vows on July 11, 1951, taking the name Roger. Two years later, he earned a bachelor's degree from St. John's University in Collegeville, MN, and then returned to St. Bede for four years of theology studies. He was ordained to the priesthood on June 2, 1957.

From 1957 to 1990 he taught English, photography and film making at St. Bede Academy and earned a master's degree in communication arts from the University of Notre Dame during summer sessions. As a teacher he was known as being patient and gentle, but also demanding. Former students often spoke of his influence in helping them "see with a photographer's eye" and to view films as more than mere entertainment. He also served the Academy for periods as infirmarian, prefect of the boarding school, and moderator of the Mothers' Club.

In 1981 he was made prior of St. Bede Abbey, serving from 1981 to 1985. In 1986 he took part in a month-long monastic renewal program at Collegio Sant'Anselmo in Rome, and was then re-assigned as prior from 1987 to 1990. On June 8, 1990, he was elected the sixth abbot of St. Bede, and was re-elected in 1998. During his tenure, development efforts for St. Bede Abbey and Academy were integrated and revitalized.

When he resigned as abbot in 2003, Bishop Daniel R. Jenky appointed him administrator of St. Mary's Parish in El Paso, and he was named pastor two years later. Despite having limited experience in pastoral administration, he was successful in creating a strong parish community. Parishioners were especially grateful for his ministry to the sick and for his comfort and compassion during times of struggle or tragedy. He served at St. Mary's until his retirement to St. Bede in 2014, but kept in regular contact with many of his former parishioners.



Father Roger at Homecoming Mass.



Father Roger teaching photography.

Father Roger exemplified St. Benedict's injunction that the abbot must instruct his disciples more by deeds than by words, not only in his dedication to his religious duties but in his willingness to engage in manual labor. Even as abbot he could be seen at work in housekeeping and painting projects. As he aged Father Roger suffered from significant joint pains, digestive problems, and heart ailments which he bore with his customary patience and quiet dignity.



His wise, compassionate presence
will be deeply missed.