

Father Edgar Probstfield

1927-2007

CONCEPTION, Mo. — Father Edgar Probstfield, O.S.B., 80, of Conception Abbey, died Sunday, Feb. 11, 2007, at St. Stephen's Infirmary, Conception.

He was born, Victor David Probstfield on Jan. 9, 1927, in Verona, Mo., the son of Paul John I and Christine (VanHatten) Probstfield.

He entered the novitiate at Conception in 1945 and professed his first vows as a Benedictine on July 11, 1946. He was ordained May 29, 1952.

Being mechanically inclined Father Edgar filled many positions within the monastery. In 1954, he was asked to go to the abbey's new foundation in Elkhorn, Neb., now known as Mount Michael Abbey. He served as farm and plant manager, becoming the business manager there. Later he served as business manager of Conception Abbey from 1970 to 1976.

In 1959, Father Edgar was assigned as pastor of St. Joseph's parish in Springfield, Mo. This was the first of many pastoral assignments, including St. Columba parish, Conception Junction; St. Paul the Apostle, Tarkio, Mo.; and St. Benedict's parish, Burlington Junction; St. Joseph's parish, Trenton, Mo.; Immaculate Heart of Mary, Princeton, Mo.; and St. Joseph's parish, Parnell, Mo.

He also served at St. Peter's parish on the Indian Mission at Fort Yates, N.D.

Wherever he went, Father Edgar impressed those entrusted to his care with his remarkable combination of straightforward simplicity and homespun wisdom.

Declining health necessitated Father Edgar's return to the Abbey at Conception this past summer from his most recent assignment at St. Joseph's parish in Parnell. However, wanting to stay busy he became the community mailman. He remarked to Abbot Gregory, "You know, this is the perfect assignment for me. It's given me a way to get to know everyone by name, again!"

He was preceded in death by his parents; brothers, Paul John II, Edgar, John, Lawrence, Clarence and James Probstfield; and sister, Ruth Evans.

Survivors include his monastic confreres, including his biological brother, Father Regis Probstfield, O.S.B.; sister, Mrs. Caroline Mc-

Nerney, Mount Vernon, Mo.; another brother, Ralph Probstfield, Tucson, Ariz.; sisters-in-law, Mrs. Geneva Probstfield, Verona; and Mrs. Gerda Fitts, Hermitage, Mo.; and many nieces and nephews, and their children.

Vespers of the Faithful Departed will be at 7:15 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 13; and a Mass of Christian Burial at 11 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 14, at the Abbey Basilica, Conception, Mo. Burial will be in St. Columba Cemetery, Conception. Price Funeral Home, Maryville, Mo., is in charge of arrangements.