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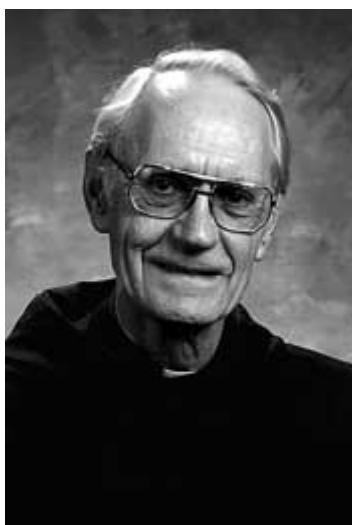
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Father Regis Probstfield



Father Regis Probstfield, OSB

CONCEPTION, Mo. - Benedictine Father Regis Probstfield, 77, died Nov. 4 at St. Stephen's Infirmary of Conception Abbey, where he had lived for several months.

Vernon Charles Probstfield was born in Verona, Mo., on February 16, 1931, the youngest of 11 children to Paul and Christine Van Hatten Probstfield. Vernon attended Sacred Heart Grade School and in 1945 enrolled in high school in Conception, following in the footsteps of his elder brother Victor, who was soon to profess vows as Brother Edgar of the Conception Abbey monastic community.

Vernon entered the Conception Abbey novitiate in 1951 and professed first monastic vows in 1952, receiving the name Regis, under the patronage of Saint John Francis Regis. Brother Regis professed solemn monastic vows in 1955, and was ordained by then-Bishop John P. Cody on April 6, 1957. He celebrated the 50th jubilee of his ordination in 2007.

Father Regis received an STL from the Catholic University of America in 1958, and an MA in Latin from Fordham University in 1961. He then served in the seminary as Latin professor, prefect and Vice Rector. Among other assignments, he served as Socius to the Novice Master and editor of his community's magazine, "Tower Topics."

Father Regis also served as Director of The Pastoral Formation Center in urban Kansas City.

In 1972 he was assigned as pastor of Saint Bernard Parish in McLaughlin, S.D., one of the abbey's missions to the Native American people of the Standing Rock Reservation. He

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returned to Conception in 1973 to become Kitchen Master, and eventually Master of Novices and Juniors. Father Regis was made associate business manager in 1978, and Subprior in 1979. He returned to parish ministry in 1981 as pastor of Saint Joseph Parish in Parnell and then was again assigned to the Catholic Indian Missions as Associate Pastor and Director of Development at Fort Yates, N.D.

Father Regis served as Ordofex for his congregation from 1996 until 2007. He also served as secretary to the abbot and chaplain of Saint Stephen's Infirmary.

He served briefly this year as chaplain to the Benedictine Sisters at the Monastery of Our Lady of Ephesus in Kansas City. He was also an avid angler and lifelong lover of poetry.

Father Regis is survived by his monastic community; by his sister Caroline McNerney of Mt. Vernon, Mo.; brother Ralph Probstfield of Tucson, Ariz.; sisters-in-law Geneva Probstfield of Verona and Gerda Fitts of Hermitage, Mo., and by many nieces and nephews and their children.

Vespers of the Faithful Departed were prayed at 7:15 p.m. on Nov. 6, and Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at 11 a.m., < Nov. 7.

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