

Father Herman Laux

December 20th is the anniversary of the death of Father Herman Laux. Fred Laux was born in Cottonwood, Idaho, on November 25, 1911. When he was a young child, his family moved to Lindsay, Texas, where he received his elementary education at St. Peter's School. In 1927, he came to Subiaco Academy for his secondary education, graduating with the class of 1931.

Fred Laux professed his vows as a monk of our monastery on September 15, 1932, receiving the name Herman. He was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop John B. Morris at St. Andrew's Cathedral in Little Rock, on May 26, 1938. Father Herman served our community by teaching for one year in our academy followed by four decades of parish ministry.

In Arkansas he served as pastor of St. Benedict's Parish from 1940 to 1941, and from 1949 to 1951 he was pastor of St. Mary's Church in Altus. From 1951 to 1957, he was assistant pastor of St. Edward's Church in Little Rock. From 1957 to 1961 he was pastor of Holy Redeemer Church in Clarksville.

And he served as pastor of St. Scholastica's Church in Shoal Creek and St. Meinrad's Church in Prairie View from 1961 to 1963.

In Texas he served for seven months in 1941 as assistant pastor of Immaculate Conception Church and chaplain of Mother Frances Hospital in Tyler. From 1941 to 1945 he was pastor of St. Joseph's Church in Rhineland and from 1945 to 1949 he was pastor of Sacred Heart Church in Muenster. He returned to St. Joseph's Church in Rhineland, serving as pastor from 1963 to 1967.

Father Herman was responsible for much construction work during his pastorates in both Texas and Arkansas, especially in building a new parish plant in Clarksville, Arkansas.

In 1967, he returned to Subiaco due to weakening health, and for the next eight years he served as a temporary substitute and he assisted on weekends in many parishes.

Father Herman was affectionately known as "pop" by his confreres because of his lifelong habit of wearing suspenders and of his early use of a corncob pipe.

Active until he suffered a stroke in 1975, his ministry was then limited to offering daily Mass in the abbey infirmary and serving as confessor to confreres. Ambulatory until a sudden weakening led to his being bedfast for the final two weeks of his life, he suffered a final stroke a week prior to his death.

On Saturday afternoon, December 20, 1980, Father Herman died peacefully in the abbey infirmary.

At the time of his death, Father Herman was 69 years old. He had been a professed monk for 48 years and a priest for 42 years. He is buried in our cemetery.

