

Father Anthony Schroeder

March 1st is the anniversary of the death of Father Anthony Schroeder. Aloys Schroeder was born in Tours, Texas, on June 2, 1902.

In 1906, when Aloys was four years old, the William J. Schroeder family moved to Windthorst, Texas, arriving the same day that Father Frowin Koerdt, OSB, was traveling to Windthorst to begin his 12-year pastorate at St. Mary's Church. From the railroad station in Henrietta, Texas, the Schroeder family and Father Frowin, the new pastor, shared a surrey to their destination: Windthorst, Texas.

Following his elementary education in Windthorst, Aloys Schroeder entered our academy and graduated with the class of 1922. Of unusual physical strength and physique, Aloys Schroeder was noted during his school and college days as an outstanding baseball pitcher.

He then entered our abbey novitiate and professed his vows as a monk of our monastery on October 2, 1924, receiving the name Anthony. Part of his major seminary studies were made at St. John's University, Collegeville, Minnesota, and Conception Abbey Seminary, Missouri. He was ordained to the priesthood at St. Andrew's Cathedral in Little Rock by Bishop John B. Morris on December 16, 1928.

Father Anthony's priestly career was almost equally divided between administrative duties in the monastery and parochial work. On January 26, 1929, he became pastor at St. Scholastica's Church in Shoal Creek. In September of that same year he returned to Subiaco as secretary-treasurer and athletic director of the academy. A few months later, in 1930, he assumed additional duties as procurator of the abbey. Meanwhile, he continued as missionary pastor at Shoal Creek.

For 15 years Father Anthony served our community as procurator. In this he did outstanding work guiding the financial affairs of the abbey in what may have been the most difficult years of its history after the 1927 fire. He once remarked that he learned to live by faith in this era, when there seemed to be no natural solution to the abbey's problems.

In 1941, after the strains of his office had eased somewhat, Father Anthony also became pastor of St. Benedict's Parish at Subiaco, continuing as pastor and procurator until 1945. Thereafter, his work was entirely parochial, with pastorates in Altus, Little Rock, and Fort Smith, Arkansas, and Muenster and Rhineland, Texas.

Father Anthony died on Sunday, March 1, 1963, at Bethania Hospital in Wichita Falls, Texas, following several months of illness with cancer. At the time of his death, he was pastor of St. Joseph's Church in Rhineland, Texas.

A Mass for Father Anthony was held in the parish church at Rhineland on Wednesday, March 4. The following day a Mass was offered in his home parish of Windthorst, Texas.

At the time of his death, Father Anthony was 60 years old and in the 38th year of his monastic profession, the 34th of his priesthood. He is buried in our cemetery.

