

Brother Aelred Walmsley

February 21st is the anniversary of the death of Brother Aelred Walmsley. Alfred Walmsley, Jr., was born in East Orange, New Jersey, on June 28, 1930. He received his elementary education at Our Lady of All Souls in East Orange and attended East Orange High School, graduating with the class of 1948. He also spent much time in England where his parents lived for several years.

After graduation from high school, he attended New York School of Freight Traffic for two years followed by two more years of study at Newark College of Engineering in New Jersey. He married and had one daughter.

Alfred Walmsley, Jr., was first employed in the freight traffic department of Western Electric in New York City. From 1950-55 he worked for the Grace Steamship Lines as a purser on their West Coast and Latin-America cruises. He then returned to his home state where he was employed for 18 years at Otis Elevator Company in Harrison, New Jersey.

It was, however, while he was employed as a utility person at Holy Trinity Monastery in Baltimore, Maryland, from 1974-79, that he considered the possibility of serving God in religious life.

When there was no impediment to his entry, Alfred Walmsley, Jr., came to Subiaco in June 1979 where he professed his vows as a monk of our monastery on September 14, 1981, receiving the name Aelred.

Brother Aelred served our community from 1979 to 1982 as baker of altar-breads for community, academy, and local parish. He also worked in the Publications Office and continued in this capacity until 1992.

He was refectorian of the monastic dining room from 1982-89. For two decades, until his untimely death, Brother Aelred faithfully carried out the assignments of mailman and bookbinder. He also assisted in the laundry from 1997 until his death.

Although health problems hindered some of Brother Aelred's activities, his sudden and unexpected death was a shock to the community when he suffered an apparent heart attack at 7:25 a.m., while seated at the breakfast table in the monastic refectory on Thursday, February 21, 2002.

On Saturday, February 23, Abbot Jerome Kodell was celebrant and homilist for the 10:00 a. m. Mass of Christian burial and performed the final obsequies.

At the time of his death, Brother Aelred was 71 years old and had been a professed monk for 20 years. He is buried in our cemetery.

