

Abbot Theodore Wolff, O.S.B.

August 23, 1928 - June 7, 2023

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Abbot Theodore, second Abbot of Mount Michael Abbey, died on Wednesday, June 7 at New Cassel Retirement Center after a brief hospice period.

Abbot Theodore was born August 23, 1928, to Joseph and Lorretto (Walsh) Wolff, Sr. of Omaha, Nebraska. He was the second youngest of this couple's five sons and five daughters. Abbot Theodore grew up in the shadows of Omaha's Saint Cecilia Cathedral.

On the feast of the Assumption of Mary in 1948, Abbot Theodore entered the novitiate of Immaculate Conception Abbey in Conception, Missouri. He professed his first vows as a Benedictine on September 3, 1949. Three years later Abbot Theodore professed his solemn perpetual vows.

Having completed his collegiate and theological studies, Abbot Theodore was ordained to the priesthood on May 29, 1954, in the Conception Abbey Basilica by Bishop John P. Cody, later Cardinal Archbishop of Chicago.

Following his ordination, Abbot Theodore served a variety of roles: Assistant Business Manager, Director of Vocations, Oblate Director, Assistant Novice

Master of the monks destined for the priesthood, and Laybrother Director. He also served a total of five years as pastor in Springfield and Ravenwood, both in Missouri.

Fifteen years after entering Conception, Abbot Theodore accepted an assignment to Mount Michael. When Mount Michael was raised to the status of an abbey on October 6, 1964, he, like most of the monks, transferred his vow of stability from Conception to the new abbey.

One of Abbot Theodore's first duties was as a dean and teacher in Saint John Vianney Seminary as the school was then known. He taught art, theology, Latin, and Spanish over the years. Abbot Theodore also served as Director of Vocations for the abbey. For three summers he was busy with various activities related to the summer camp for boys conducted by Mount Michael. He enjoyed arts and crafts with the kids and assisted with the horses and teaching the kids how to ride. Abbot Theodore was also a bus driver during the camp sessions. For one year he was on the faculty at Boys Town as a theology instructor.

Abbot Theodore was appointed as Prior in 1970. While serving as Prior, he continued to teach in the school and even served as Co-business Manager and as Business Manager. Abbot Theodore was also Novice Master from 1969 to 1989. On June 1, 1989, Abbot Theodore was elected as our second Abbot. He served in this capacity until June 1, 2007.

His retirement allowed him to spend even more time on his love for handwriting. His calligraphy can be found in ink, in wood, and in ceramic beautifully gracing the abbey and the school. Abbot Theodore collaborated with Bro. Jerome on designing greeting cards and prints. He continued his faithfulness to the Divine Office and to the practice of lectio divina. He served as a spiritual adviser and provided catechetical instruction to community

members, students, oblates, and to the wider community.

Abbot Theodore is survived by the community of Mount Michael Benedictine Abbey as well as his brother F. Patrick (Silvia) Wolff and sisters-in-law Delores Wolff and Joyce Wolff and many nieces, nephews, extended family and friends. Preceding him in death were his parents, Joseph and Loretto (Walsh) Wolff and family members Vincent "Jerry" Wolff, Joseph Wolff, Jr., Sr. Mary Wolff O.P., Theresa Wolff, Elaine Filkins, Margaret Schonebaum, Sr. Loretto Wolff O.P., John Wolff, and Robert Wolff. The Vigil Service will be on Sunday, June 11 at 7:00 pm in the David "D.J." Sokol Memorial Chapel on the Mount Michael campus. Mass of Christian Burial will be Monday, June 12 at 10:00 am, Saint Vincent de Paul Catholic Church, 14330 Eagle Run Drive in Omaha. Interment in Mount Michael Abbey Cemetery. Memorials to Mount Michael Benedictine Abbey. Arrangements provided by Reichmuth Funeral Home.

Previous Events

Vigil service

JUN 11. 7:00 PM (CT)

David "D.J." Sokol Memorial Chapel
22520 Mt. Michael Road
Elkhorn, NE 68022

Mass of Christian Burial

JUN 12. 10:00 AM (CT)

St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church
142nd & Eagle Run Dr.
Omaha, NE

Tribute Wall



“ *Reichmuth Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Abbot Theodore Wolff, O.S.B.*



Reichmuth Funeral Home - June 11, 2023 at 02:38 PM

CO

“ *Carol Coenen, OP lit a candle in memory of Abbot Theodore Wolff, O.S.B.*



Carol Coenen, OP - July 13, 2023 at 04:45 PM

AS

“ *What a lovely man -- remember being with him when we were in Arizona for a good friend's wedding. His first trip to the Grand Canyon, and the beauty of it all was clearly captivating to Abbot Ted -- he was simply elated. We were blessed to know him and I will not forget that day. Here's to many beautiful heavenly days ahead! -- Ann & Barry Schmitt*

Ann Schmitt - June 12, 2023 at 01:47 PM

MH

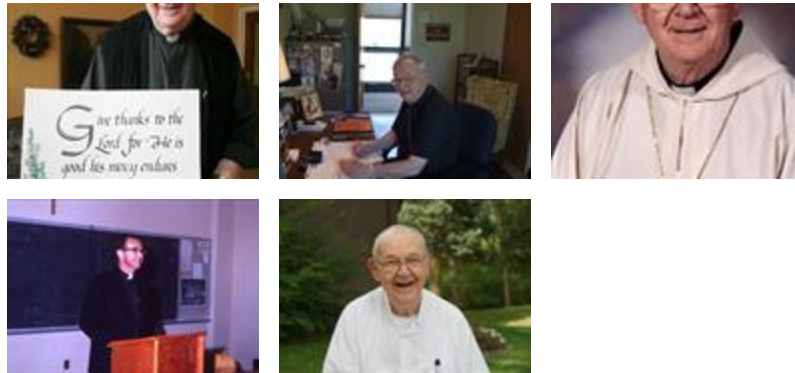
“ Abbot 'Theo' was a consistent presence in our Family. He was 12 days younger than my mother - Fran Hyde, which was a ongoing tease to have an older sister or younger brother. They enjoyed the planning of their concelebration of their 80th birthday luncheons (yes, plural) He negotiated several tense situations with us over the 60 years of our friendship. His & Bro Jerome's art hangs in many of our family homes, so is remembered always.

We will all miss him - MK Hyde-Bohn

Mary Kay Hyde-Bohn - June 08, 2023 at 11:19 PM

LS

“ 5 files added to the album Photos



L S - June 08, 2023 at 07:50 PM

JS

“ My most poignant memories of Abbot Theodore and lasting treasures are of his exceptional artful calligraphy. I have several of his framed works in my home.

His works were often times given as Christmas gifts, enhanced by Bro Jerome's art work. I cherish them.

God rest his soul.

Jackie Sojka

Jackie Sojka - June 08, 2023 at 07:46 PM

JA

Long before he was Abbot, Fr. Theodore was an amazing teacher, priest and friend. Conversations with him were insightful and often inspirational. While he will be missed, there's solace in knowing that the Abbot is home. God Bless you Pater Lupus.

Joe Akers

Joe Akers - June 10, 2023 at 12:37 PM