

son of Leo and Clara Kathol. He got his early academic formation at Holy Trinity Grade School where the Benedictine Sisters of Yankton, SD introduced him to the idea of checking out the high school seminary operated by the Benedictine monks of Conception, MO. He began this adventure as a high school freshman in 1950 and eight years later graduated from Conception College Seminary with a Bachelor of Arts in 1958. After spending one semester at St. Bernard's Seminary in Dubuque as a seminarian for the Omaha Archdiocese the attraction to monastic life lingered, intensified and led to his entering the monastery as a novice on Aug. 31, 1959. Having persevered through the novitiate he professed temporary vows on Sept. 1, 1960 to be followed by solemn profession Sept. 2, 1963.

The responsibilities of priestly and academic ministry began immediately after his ordination to the priesthood on Sept. 21, 1963, the same month as his final solemn vows. After tasting the experience of classroom teaching for one year he went off to graduate studies in linguistics at Georgetown University in Washington D.C. from 1965-1968 and again 1969-70. In the years that followed Fr. Quentin could be found teaching in the classroom but also served as Dean of Studies from June 1970 to August 1981. Known for his precision in word choice and attention to details he brought his special gifts to the functioning of the office of the dean.

The years 1972 to 1991 saw Fr. Quentin wearing a number of

hats as languages professor, sub-prior associate treasurer with three years on the budget and finance committee and from 1972 – 2003 director of testing. He served as abbey archivist from 1991-2000.

Fr. Quentin has always had a keen interest in all things electrical and took delight in being a technical troubleshooter whenever problems with the audio-visual and telephone equipment arose in the monastery or seminary. He always seemed able to come up with the needed spare part or solve the problem if it was fixable. We knew that he would take it as a personal challenge to conquer the problem. When it was dandelion season around the monastery in spring and early summer we often saw Fr. Quentin waging a personal vendetta against that nasty flower/weed digging them out by their roots!

Even though he had done periodic parish ministry as substitute weekend help over the years a major change came for him when he was appointed pastor of the two rural parishes, St. Paul's Parish in Tarkio and St. Benedict's Parish in Burlington Junction, MO. He was pastor of these rural parishes from August of 1994 to 1998. His next assignment was back to the classroom in the seminary where he taught English as a Second Language with supplementary parish assignments from 2000-2003.

Further pastoral assignments followed in Aug. 2003 when he was assigned to be chaplain at St. Bernard's Medical Center in Jonesboro, AR and then followed in Aug. 2007 his current assign-

ment as chaplain for the Missionary Benedictine Sisters at Norfolk, NE and for the sick and elderly at St. Joseph's Nursing Home and Skyview Villa. This assignment was very fortunate for him in that it allowed him to be present more often to visit his elderly mother in her final days in his hometown.

When asked for a "word to the wise" in preparing this article Fr. Quentin offered the following thought:

"Despite the Benedictine vow of stability, the monastic vocation is as much subject to change as any other vocation. For anyone giving serious thought to entering the monastery at Conception, a "word to the wise" is that there's a dynamic aspect to the vows which a monastic person tries to live by. The impulse to begin is wonderful, but the call to put down roots and to grow in the midst of changing conditions involves a lifetime of adaptation. Also, you are not joining a single admired person but a community of persons who live and work together as brothers until each one meets the call to move on in death. For peace, happiness, and sheer survival, try each day to remain serene."

We congratulate Fr. Quentin as he marks his Golden Jubilee of Profession and pray that he will be able to continue to serve in a variety of assignments giving monastic witness to those vows he made so many years ago.

### Fr. Allan Stetz: 50 Years Professed

by Fr. Patrick Caveglia

Fr. Allan Stetz, who celebrates his golden jubilee of monastic



profession this year, was born in St. Edward in east-central Nebraska in 1939. He began his college work at Conception Seminary in 1958, made his first profession of monastic vows on September 1, 1960, and was ordained to the priesthood on January 7, 1966.

For many years, Fr. Allan worked in our Christian greeting card apostolate, now known as The Printery House. He spent fourteen years as assistant manager, where he had special responsibility for advertising and marketing. He worked with designers to create advertising pieces. In those years, The Printery House relied on in-house printing and inserting of direct mail promotions. Fr. Allan became an expert on the care and feeding of our inserting and labeling equipment, which was used extensively during the summers to prepare advertising for our Christmas card lines. As the equipment became more and more complex, Fr. Allan constantly developed new tricks to repair older equipment. In about 1979, he purchased the first Printery House computer – a Tandy/Radio Shack model which he used to track source codes for catalog

orders. The data was recorded on an ordinary audio cassette player! But this was the beginning of on-site computerization of work data for Conception Abbey's apostolates.

In 1981, Fr. Allan was asked to take on the task of community business manager, which meant oversight of the financial health of the community. In this role, Fr. Allan served for eight years. During that time, the community moved toward greater financial coordination by means of better budgeting and accountability. As the demographics of the monastic community changed, so did the works the community had traditionally engaged in. Fr. Allan helped the community end its direct and active role in farming, and worked to solidify the community's financial situation during the 1980s. During this time at home, Fr. Allan also served the community as a confessor, director of the candidate program, and on various committees.

Following his term as business manager, Fr. Allan turned his attention to pastoral care as a parish priest. He was first assigned as pastor at St. Columban Parish, Chillicothe, Missouri, where he served from 1989 to 1995. There he was able to engage his passion for history, since Chillicothe was celebrating its sesquicentennial when he arrived. As he told the local newspaper, "I was very impressed by the long history of the area, which goes back much longer than where I grew up. So I got to learn a lot about the community from its history when I first arrived."

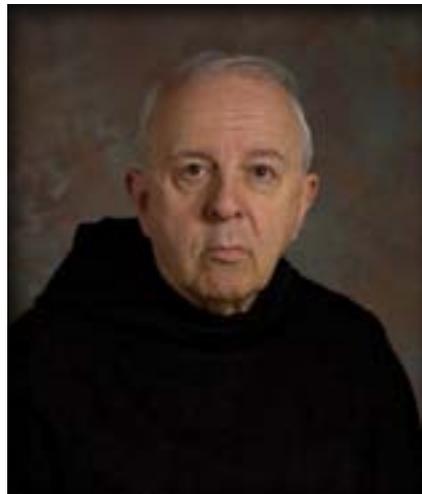
Fr. Allan's assignment at St. Columban was the beginning of a number of pastoral appointments. After a short sabbatical at Notre Dame, Fr. Allan became pastor at Sacred Heart Parish, Chariton, Iowa in the Des Moines Diocese. In 2000, he was assigned to serve at St. Brendan Parish, Mexico, Missouri, in the Jefferson City Diocese. He was called home to the Abbey in 2002 to serve as director of planned giving in the Development Office, and continued to do pastoral ministry in the area. He was pastor at St. Peter's Parish, Stanberry, and St. Patrick's Parish, Ford City until 2008, when he was assigned to serve as pastor of St. Columba Parish, Conception Junction. He continues in this pastoral role today, pastoring our neighbors and their families.

Fr. Allan's mind is open to new ideas and new inventions, and his heart is attuned to the needs of the people he serves. His ministry of service is one of Benedictine hospitality – welcoming all to come into the presence of the God of mercy and grace. May that service grow and flourish in the years to come!

### Fr. Isaac True: 50 Years Professed

by Br. Justin Hernandez

One of the difficulties in trying to give a brief portrait of someone celebrating 50 years of religious life is that highlighting some of the more noticeable traits means inevitably passing over many no less significant qualities known to those who have shared his life. Anyone who has known Fr. Isaac True can testify that beneath the



learned, hard-working, and independent surface, lies a soul God-fearing, caring, and humble in the estimation of his own wisdom.

There is little need to dwell on Fr. Isaac's learnedness. Though he did not like school when he was younger, Fr. Isaac has shown an enthusiasm, or at least a determination, to learn what it takes to tackle the practical demands his assignments presented—whether as President-Rector, Business Manager, teacher of philosophy, and, more recently, as pastor of a parish. Fr. Isaac's perceptive and open mind usually enables him to arrive at a well-considered solution to the issue at hand. But as we know, Fr. Isaac never uses the successes he may have experienced as an excuse to stop re-thinking, re-working, re-learning. Always a teacher, he's never stopped being a student.

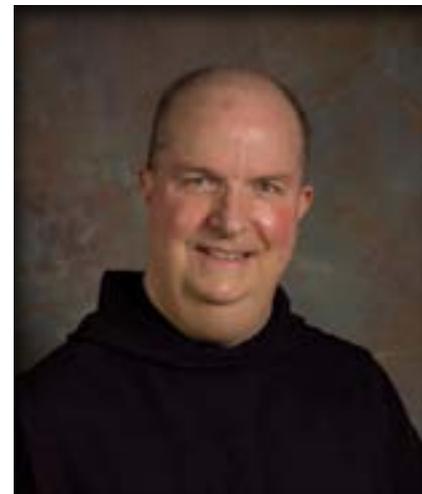
Fr. Isaac's industriousness is accompanied by humility, a chief characteristic mentioned by St. Benedict of the monk who truly seeks God. As President-Rector from 1973-88, and during somewhat challenging times, Fr. Isaac diligently and patiently sowed the seeds of the seminary's later

fuller flourishing. To paraphrase St. Paul, Fr. Isaac watered and planted, but God gave the increase. Fr. Isaac's industriousness, in other words, has been accompanied by an evident and strong faith in God. If there's one theme that consistently stands out in Fr. Isaac's homilies to the community, it is this: Do not allow our own wills to get in the way of God's grace in our life. Surely it is this theme of personal conversion that is responsible for the "sacred enthusiasm" that can sometimes burst forth from Fr. Isaac's more ordinary Stoic demeanor—often coming as a surprise to unsuspecting observers.

Underneath Fr. Isaac's independent exterior there is also a generous, caring, and even affectionate quality that is shown to those who approach him in trust. On many occasions Fr. Isaac has offered a quiet but wise word of support to a confrere experiencing a difficulty. If the situation calls for a candidly direct response, Fr. Isaac is quite capable of that too. Those of us who have worked with Fr. Isaac in the administration of the abbey or seminary know of the neatness and thoroughness that he applies to his work. We also know of his willingness to help with tasks that may require his expertise. For example, Fr. Isaac was asked to write the most recent self-study report for the seminary's successful accreditation—an important and demanding work that he was already familiar with.

Fr. Isaac's strong sense of purpose to better the lives of others has been shown not only in the seminary as a teacher and admin-

istrator, but also in the pastoral responsibilities more recently assigned to him. After fifteen years as rector, Fr. Isaac spent a sabbatical of a year and two summers in Guatemala, knowing he would be exposed to poverty, violence, political unrest, and an unfamiliar language. The first three he could do very little about, but then he not only taught himself Spanish, he also learned Cachiuel, the Mayan dialect of the native region. We are thankful to God that Fr. Isaac has enjoyed good health over the years, enabling him to presently serve the Catholic parish in Bethany, Missouri, sharing his wisdom and his faith as he has done for us these past 50 years.



### Fr. Timothy Schoen: 25 Years Professed

by Abbot Gregory Polan

Fr. Timothy knows about persistence. A graduate of our seminary college, he studied theology at the North American College in Rome during the exciting years of the Second Vatican Council. After ordination in 1964, he served for twenty years in parish ministry

as a priest of the Diocese of Kansas City-Saint Joseph: Fr. Frank Schoen became a well-known figure among the liturgical musicians of our nation. But even as his ministry progressed, Fr. Frank found himself growing ever more aware that God could be persistent, too: through all those years, a divinely inspired attraction to a more contemplative life than the parish could afford was a persistent whisper in the ear of his heart. Finally heeding the voice of his Master's instruction, Father petitioned for admission to the monastic community he had known as both seminarian and priest. And as a monk, placed at profession under the name and care of St. Timothy, he has borne the "full discipline of the rule" with zeal, putting his priestly ministry his many talents fully at the service of his monastic community.

That service has included many manifestations. Fr. Timothy has been an instructor in the seminary for most of his years in the

monastery; mainstay of the music department, he regularly teaches voice and chant as well as organ and piano. He has further served the seminary at various times as Chaplain, Spiritual Advisor, and Director of Seminary Liturgy, having completed further graduate studies in Liturgical Music at Saint John's University, Collegeville, in 1996.

His service in the monastery has been no less illustrious. Whether as refectorian, assistant choirmaster or abbot's secretary, he has acquitted himself with devotion and enthusiasm. But as anyone who knows Fr. Timothy can tell you, his real gifts to the community come in the Liturgy. He is an organist of exceptional ability; no one can resist the thrill generated by his blazing execution of Charles-Marie Widor's Toccata. Fr. Timothy is never above sharing the liturgical stage: in addition to his direction of both the monastic schola and seminary choir, Father expands the beauty

of our liturgies in encouraging participation by student-players of violin, trumpet or flute, diligently searching out organ pieces suited to the accompaniment of such instrumentalists. His liturgical compositions grace both our Eucharistic celebrations and monastic office. The heart of Father's musical endeavors is always the joyful praise of God.

The beauty and depth Fr. Timothy brings to the liturgy is not limited to organ bench or music stand. His homilies are renowned for their sensitivity, learning and spiritual power, and his deep appreciation for poetry brings striking insight to his scriptural exegesis, gleaned apt spiritual kernels from literary luminaries ranging from George Herbert and John Milton to W. H. Auden and T. S. Eliot.

Fr. Timothy came to Conception for love of God and neighbor. Let us rejoice with him, thanking God for twenty-five years of monastic life and service!

## ABBHEY AND SEMINARY FOOTNOTES

**Abbot Gregory Polan, O.S.B.** gave the annual Study-Day for the Catholic Biblical School in Buffalo, NY on Saturday, 23 October 2010. On 1-4 December 2010, he will conduct the annual retreat for the Benedictine monks of St. Gregory's Abbey, Three Rivers, Michigan.

**Fr. Benedict Neenan, O.S.B.** gave a "Busy Person's Retreat" at St. Thomas Aquinas Newman Center at Iowa State University in Ames from October 17-21.

**Fr. Samuel Russell, O.S.B.** at-

tended the annual convention of the National Conference of Diocesan Vocation Directors in Milwaukee, WI 12-16 September. He led the senior pilgrimage to Chicago and St. Louis October 28-November 2. October 21-22 he attended a board meeting of the National Association of College Seminaries at St. Charles Seminary in Philadelphia. The board met to plan the association's annual conference.

In addition to directed and preached retreats at the Abbey

Guest Center, **Fr. Patrick Cavaglia, O.S.B.** preached the annual retreat to the Catholic Daughters of the Americas of the Archdiocese of Dubuque at the American Martyrs Retreat House, Cedar Falls, Iowa, in October. The retreat house is celebrating its 50th jubilee of founding in 2010. He also attended the Swiss-American Congregation Finance Committee meeting at Glastonbury Abbey near Boston in early November. Fr. Patrick chairs the committee.

**Fr. Dan Merz** will be presenting

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