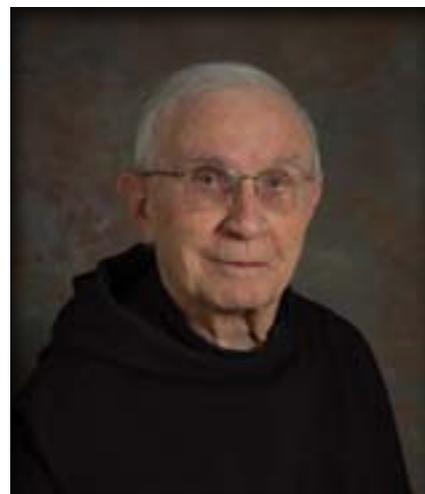


JUBILARIANS



Fr. Anthony Shidler: 70 Years Professed

by Fr. Xavier Nacke

Fr. Anthony was born into a large family—the 4th of seven boys and one girl, on August 21, 1921 in Elkhart, IN and was baptized Joseph Earl. Fr. Anthony was one of four religious to come from the family of Joseph Earl and Ursula Gettelfinger Shidler. Brothers Lawrence and Stephen were monks of St. Meinrad and Sr. Elnora is a Benedictine sister of Ferdinand, Ind.

He graduated in 1935 from the public high school in Harrison County, Indiana. (He says that he actually “never graduated from High School” but “had three years of quasi-high school at St. Meinrad.”)

Joseph Earl went to St. Meinrad when he was 14. There he attended the school for brothers in St. Placid Hall and afterwards made his novitiate in the monastery, professing first vows on March 12, 1940. Three years later he made perpetual vows.

At St. Meinrad he worked in the bakery and on the farm. In 1950

Abbot Primate Bernard Kaelin made a request of the Archabbey for brothers to help with the work at Sant’Anselmo Monastery in Rome. Br. Anthony told his superior he was willing to respond to this request. So, on July 16 of that year he and three other brothers left for a five-year assignment in Rome. There he worked in the carpenter shop and became driver for the community, hauling “everything from people to pigs.”

When he returned to St. Meinrad in the summer of 1955 he discussed the possibility of a priestly vocation with his abbot. But this was not to be immediately. He returned to Rome and during the next two years studied some Latin privately. He came home to St. Meinrad in the summer of 1957 and on to Conception where arrived on the train, “out in the sticks” on August 14th where Fr. James, who had been a friend and confidant at St. Anselmo, met him at the train station.

That Fall he joined nine younger men in the clerical novitiate. Novice Anthony went to the end of the seniority line and lived graciously, generously and cheerfully in that rambunctious class!

When the rest of the class made vows in September, 1958, Frater Anthony simply changed a short scapular for a long one—he had already made simple vows! (He would transfer his stability from St. Meinrad to Conception in June of 1961).

After a testing program, Anthony then entered second college. The next seven years were spent in the juniorate. This included one

year as a simplex priest after he was ordained on May 22, 1964.

There followed many jobs in the monastery, including archivist, professor at Mount Alverno Academy, prior in the monastery, assistant business manager, associate pastor, chaplain in the nearby hospital and professor in the seminary. But first came a further stint with the books at St. Louis University (1966-67) leading to a masters degree in history and later time in training for certification in Clinical Pastoral Education.

The beautiful wood carving that Fr. Anthony has done as a hobby is perhaps symbolic of his caring, persevering and gentle spirit. The author of this article, who was his fellow novice here at Conception, has appreciated and profited much from his witness as have so many others, both here at the abbey and seminary and in a number of other places!

He currently resides in St. Stephen’s Health Care Center at the abbey.

Br. Blaise Bonderer: 50 Years Professed



by Br. Etienne Huard

Br. Blaise Bonderer was born George Bonderer on January 29th, 1940, in Chillicothe Missouri—the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Frank and Mary Bonderer of Chillicothe. He attended the Green Grove Grade School, completing studies in 1953 and then went on to St. Joseph’s Academy in Chillicothe where he graduated in 1957. The following year, he entered Conception Seminary College to pursue priestly studies but found a stronger calling to the monastic way of life and entered the novitiate at Conception Abbey. After completing his novitiate he professed temporary vows on May 10th, 1960 and final vows May 10th, 1963.

Due to his farming background, the first assignment for Br. Blaise was working with the dairy operation for five years in the early sixties. For three consecutive years he showed the Grand Champion dairy cow at local fairs and the Missouri State Fair. He reports that her official registered name was *Abbeydale Johanna Captain*. He also admits that he enhanced the appearance (legally) of this champion white dairy cow with the aid of some talcum powder at strategic places! Moving from the farm, Br. Blaise was assigned as assistant manager of food services for one year and assistant superintendent of maintenance for the next three. For a short time thereafter, he was named the Abbey’s assistant business manager and the Abbot’s secretary while still continuing to help with outdoor landscaping.

For the next ten years, he began

a long and creative relationship working at The Printery House. Here he was able to take his skill and experience of cultivating plants and flowers to developing and printing Christian greeting cards.

Still known for his ‘green thumb’ and his often stunning flower arrangements for the church, Br. Blaise was given a new series of challenges. In 1985 he was named the vice-chairman of the committee formed by the now Archbishop Jerome Hanus, O.S.B. which was charged with making plans for the 1991 centennial of the Abbey Basilica. This committee was also created to address the daunting task of providing the vision for restoring and renewing the Basilica.

Throughout this time, Br. Blaise kept busy with a variety of other necessary assignments. These included being the supply store manager, associate guestmaster, member of the fire and safety team, member of the vocation recruitment team, assistant kitchen master, church manager and sacristan, and director of the monks’ supply room.

After these various duties, Br. Blaise was able to return to working outdoors. He became grounds keeper—giving an official title to a job he had already been performing for quite some time. He gladly held this position for nearly 25 years. To this day, he has never entirely relinquished his duties involving ground maintenance and he continues to help with flower beds which often add to the art and environment of the Church. He now officially serves the com-

munity as apple orchard manager and monastic refectorian (the person in charge of cleaning and setting up the dining room for all the monks’ meals). It is also important to note that Br. Blaise has carried on Br. Damian’s work of recording and tracking the local weather for the national Weather Bureau, thus continuing the tradition of “the weather monk” at Conception Abbey.

Surely Br. Blaise, “one of the Bonderer kids of Chillicothe” has provided a powerful witness through these fifty years of generous and faithful monastic life which has touched the lives of many. His brother monks appreciate his ready smile and generosity and pray that whether working, praying, or playing a game of Bridge at the card table, the blessings still to come will indeed be abundant.

Fr. Quentin Kathol: 50 Years Professed

by Fr. Daniel Petsche

Golden Jubilarian of Profession, Fr. Quentin Kathol, traces his early days back to his hometown of Hartington, NE where he was born July 30, 1936, the

