

Abbot David J. Cyr, O.S.B.
Monk of Marmion Abbey
1926-2018

PEACE

On July 21, 2018 our confrere

ABBOT DAVID J. CYR, O.S.B.

died peacefully in the Lord. He was 91 years old, five days short of his birthday, a professed monk for 72 years, a priest for 67 years, and an abbot for 47 years.

Abbot David was born in Galesburg, Illinois on July 26, 1926, but raised in Aurora, Illinois. His family was a member of Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish. He attended Marmion Military Academy his freshman year (1939-1940). Deciding early in life to enter religious life and pursue the priesthood, he completed high school at St. Meinrad Minor Seminary. He entered the Benedictine community of St. Meinrad Archabbey in 1945 and professed his first vows on September 15, 1946, taking the religious name of Rene. When Marmion Abbey was founded as an abbey in 1947, he was the youngest of the founding members. On September 17, 1949 he professed Solemn Vows as a monk of Marmion Abbey. He studied Theology at St. Procopius Major Seminary and was ordained a priest on May 19, 1951.

From 1952 through 1971, Father Rene held a variety of responsibilities at Marmion Military Academy, both at its Lake Street campus (1951-1958) and Butterfield Road campus (1959-1971). He taught English, Latin, Religion and French. He also served as librarian, dormitory prefect, Director of Admissions, Academic Dean (1967-1969) and as Headmaster in 1970. In 1970 he returned to using his baptismal name of David.

On November 26, 1971, he was elected the third abbot of Marmion Abbey. He received the abbatial blessing on March 21, 1972, Feast of St. Benedict, by

Bishop Arthur O'Neill of the Diocese of Rockford. Abbot David served Marmion Abbey as abbot for twenty years, until his resignation in December of 1991. He wisely guided the abbey through many important decisions, including the building of the Battaglia Center and Decio Library at the Academy (1986), overseeing the transition of Marmion's Guatemala mission priory from the town of Solola to the city of Quetzaltenango in 1991, and for his constant attention to the liturgy and monastic observance at the abbey.

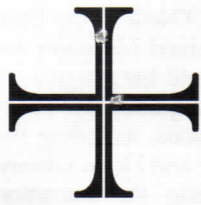
After retirement as abbot, Abbot David continued to serve the Church and his community. From 1992-1998 he served as the Director of Development for the Benedictine Pontifical Liturgical Institute in Rome, and then as its Secretary-Treasurer from 1998-99. Returning to the abbey in 2000, he served the community as abbey librarian as well as in pastoral assistance at various Catholic parishes, especially at St. Patrick's Parish, St. Charles, Illinois. In 2013 Abbot David's health began to decline. Due to serious health issues he lived at St. Patrick's Residence in Naperville, Illinois for the last five years of his life until his sudden death.

Abbot David was preceded in death by his parents, Edgar and Corinne (Quirin) Cyr, his brothers Donald, Raymond and Edgar, and his sisters Paula and Lorette. He is survived by members of his monastic community and by many nieces and nephews. His Funeral Mass was celebrated on July 25 in the Abbey Church of St. Augustine of Canterbury, with burial in the Abbey Cemetery.

The customary suffrages for the deceased are requested for the repose of his soul.

May he rest in peace!

Abbot John and Community



PRAYER

God of blessings, source of all holiness,
the voice of your Spirit has drawn countless
men and women to follow Jesus Christ and
to bind themselves to you with ready will and
loving heart.

Look with mercy on Abbot David who
sought to fulfill his vows to you, and grant
him the reward promised to all good and
faithful servants.

May he rejoice in the company of the
saints and with them praise you forever.

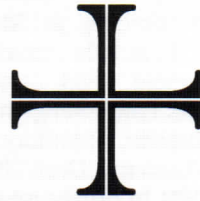
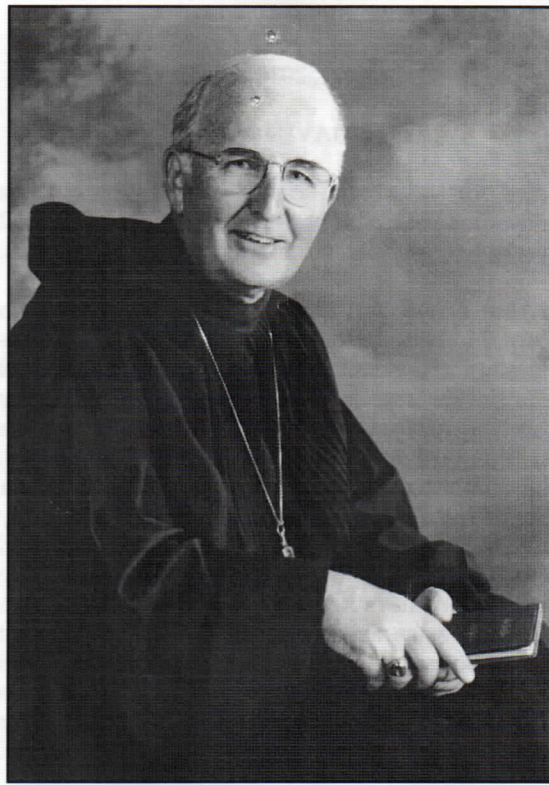
Through Christ our Lord.

Amen

Mary, Mother of God, pray for us.

MARMION
 **ABBEY**

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Aurora, Illinois 60502



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