

PRAYER

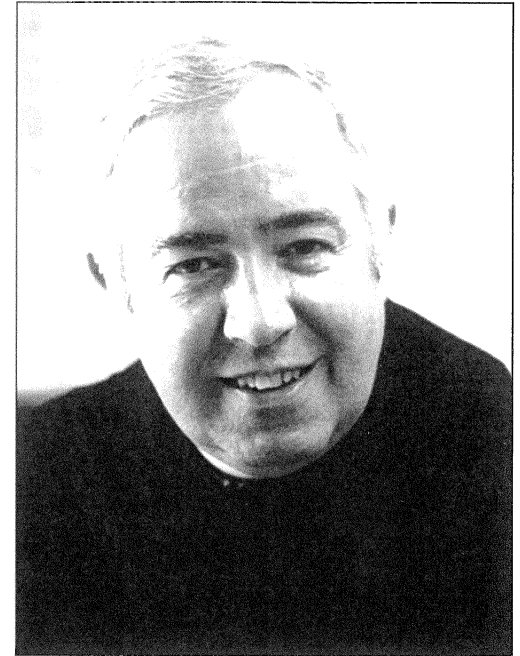
*Merciful Father, Eternal Shepherd,  
hear the prayers of Your faithful people  
for Your servant Father Mel.*

*He labored tirelessly for Your Church  
and faithfully witnessed in his life to the  
death and resurrection of Jesus, Your Son.*

*In Your mercy, bring him to the reward  
promised to the faithful servant.*

*We ask this through Christ our Lord.*

*Amen.*



**FR. MEL PATTON, OSB**

*Monk and Priest of*

*Saint Meinrad Archabbey*

1925-2018

Died peacefully in the Lord

September 6, 2018



*Saint Meinrad*  
*Archabbey*

100 HILL DRIVE  
ST. MEINRAD, IN 47577

## PEACE

Shortly after six in the evening on September 6, 2018, Father Mel Patton, O.S.B., a monk and priest of Saint Meinrad Archabbey, died peacefully in the Lord in his cell in the monastery infirmary. He was a jubilant of both profession and priesthood.

Father Mel was born in Fairview Park, Ohio, on March 2, 1925, one of four boys to Anthony John and Josephine (Weber) Patton, and was given the name Raymond Anthony at his baptism. After completing his elementary education at St. Angela Merici School in Fairview Park, he attended Roger Bacon High School in St. Bernard, OH, from which he graduated in 1944.

Upon graduation he enlisted in the United States Army, and served as an infantryman in the European Theater for the last two years of World War II. He received the Combat Infantryman's Badge, and was awarded the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star.

Father Mel was an accomplished pianist, studying at the Cincinnati Conservatory and Baldwin-Wallace College, and receiving certification from the Ohio State Music Teachers Association in 1947. He accompanied the Little Theater, Severance Hall, Cleveland, for four years, during which time he also accompanied the Finnish Light Opera Company. He served also as organist and choir director at John Carroll University, Cleveland, and as organist at St. Gregory the Great Church, South Euclid, OH.

In 1949, Father Mel earned a B.A. in French from John Carroll, and continued studies in English and Latin. Over the years he would earn an MA in Journalism from Marquette University, pursue doctoral studies at Georgetown University, and, in 1970, received the Master of Divinity degree from Saint Meinrad School of Theology.

Father Mel affiliated with Saint Meinrad and entered the second philosophy class in 1951, and was invested as a novice on July 30, 1952. He professed his simple vows on July 31, 1953, and his solemn vows on August 6, 1956. He was ordained to the priesthood on September 22, 1956.

After his ordination, Father Mel worked in the Abbey Development Office from 1958 to 1964, and was director of the Retreat Program from 1969 to 1985. He also served as an organist from 1952-1964, and again from 1981-1985.

Many alumni will remember Father Mel for his long service in the classroom. He taught for 28 years—eight in our high school and 20 in our college, where he was Assistant Professor of English and Music. He offered private lessons in piano, organ, and singing. College freshmen were required to take his developmental reading and writing course, and will recall the enthusiasm with which he handed out nearly a ream of single-spaced notes during the semester, all the while scrupulously tracking their progress through weekly, if not daily, quizzes.

For almost 20 years, Father Mel faithfully provided weekend assistance to the soldiers at Fort Knox, Kentucky.

After retiring from teaching, he began a series of assignments serving other religious communities. He was an organist at Blue Cloud Abbey, Marvin, SD, from 1985-1986, then at St. Bernard Abbey, Cullman, AL, from 1986-91. Father Mel then served as chaplain for the Olivetan Benedictine Sisters at Holy Angels Convent, Jonesboro, AR, for two years, before devoting the next 16 years as chaplain to the Benedictine Sisters, Sacred Heart Monastery, Yankton, SD.

Upon returning to our monastery in 2010, Father Mel took up residence in our infirmary. He preferred his solitude, although he was always willing to chat with visitors. He faithfully attended Mass in the Infirmary Chapel, was a devoted follower of EWTN, and kept current on Church happenings through various periodicals.

We pray with confidence that this veteran of our country and of the Lord's vineyard, having served so many so long for so well, is now welcomed into the heavenly kingdom by Him who was his Captain in his well-fought fights.

At the time of his death, Father Mel was 93 years old, in the 65th year of his monastic profession, and the 61st year of priesthood.

The Office of the Dead will be prayed at 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, September 9, in the Archabbey Church. The Funeral Liturgy will be celebrated at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, September 10, in the Archabbey Church. (Times are Central Time Zone.) Burial will follow in the Archabbey Cemetery. For the repose of his soul, three Masses will be offered by each monk of the Archabbey. The customary suffrages are recommended to all monks of our Congregation.

*Archabbot Kurt and Community*