



Fr. Ambrose Gerald Wathen, O.S.B.

DEC 10, 1931 - JUL 3, 2013



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Fr. Ambrose Gerald Wathen, O.S.B.

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Father Ambrose Gerald Wathen, O.S.B., monk of Saint Joseph Abbey in Saint Benedict, Louisiana died at Saint Joseph Abbey on Wednesday morning, July 3, 2013. He was 81 years old.

Son of the late Henry and Lillian Wathen, Father Ambrose was born in Evansville, Indiana on December 10, 1931. He made his profession as a Benedictine monk of Saint Joseph Abbey on August 21, 1959 and was ordained a priest on August 28, 1965. He was preceded in death by his parents and his sister, Anna Mae Wathen Lewis, and is survived by his brothers Melvin Wathen and Jim Wathen.

Father Ambrose's 53 years as a monk were marked with the love of learning and the desire for God, serving his fellow monks, the Benedictine Order, and the greater Church in numerous capacities. As a talented artisan, he served his brother monks in the kitchen, sacristy, and tailor shop. A gifted scholar, Father Ambrose published numerous articles on monasticism and served as a seminary professor, the formation director of the monastery, a professor in Monastic Institute at Sant' Anselmo in Rome, and was the fourth President-Rector of Saint Joseph Seminary College.

Father Ambrose's body will be received on Tuesday, July 9, 2013 at 5:30 p.m. at Saint Joseph Abbey followed by the singing of Vespers. Later that evening at 7:15 p.m. a Funeral Vigil will be held in the Abbey Church. The Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Wednesday, July 10, 2013 at 11:15 a.m. in the Abbey Church followed by burial in the Abbey Cemetery.



Tribute Wall

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MW

Melvin Wathen posted:

my youngest brother Gerry, Father Ambrose, & I, were close, visits, many letters back & forth and I will miss him, his wit, we made each other laugh. Melvin Wathen-Ft. Wayne, In.

July 18 at 7:00 PM

CM

Carolyn Maes posted:

I will miss you always in the abbey church reading and studying in the late afternoon. I would walk in the church and you never looked up so engrossed in your study. What a beautiful scene of such Grace in such a Holy place. One time I got up enough nerve to disturb you and ask " how do I know what the plan is for my future" I was having a bad day because my husband has been struggling with cancer for four years now, you simply looked up and said " you must have faith" !!! I had been to the abbey church recently and it was strange not seeing you in there studying or praying from your book. I was sad to hear you had passed. I will miss you my friend!!

July 14 at 7:00 PM

DW

Dave Wathen posted:

As a child, I recall Father Ambrose/"Uncle Jerry" as the most travelled and worldly member of our family, which proved to be an inspiration to us all. We all miss him, and also celebrate his positive influence on all of us.

July 9 at 7:00 PM

DW

Doug Wathen posted:

Father Ambrose was my uncle, so I knew him both as Uncle Ambrose and Father Ambrose. I have fond memories of him and my father talking and laughing together. He had a wonderful sense of humor. They were not able to visit each other in person the last few years, but they enjoyed staying in touch by mail. He will be missed by all of us. We are thankful that he was among those he loved and that loved him in his final years.

July 8 at 7:00 PM

JN

Jimmy Nelson posted:

Rest in Peace. My deepest sympathy to the Monastic Community.

July 8 at 7:00 PM



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Dom Gulotta posted:

Ambrose was a friend. His quiet holiness was an inspiration to me. I will always remember him as a model of what an authentic life should be. I only hope that I can be like him.

July 7 at 7:00 PM



Anonymous posted:

I well remember Ambrose's many contributions to the abbey and seminary: his "Senex Dixit" column in the Entre Nous newspaper, his work backstage for numerous plays, his scholarship, his love of learning and liturgy, his respect for his colleagues, and his humor. May the angels lead him into paradise. Robert Fritz (St Ben 1962), Houston, TX

July 3 at 7:00 PM



Ed Killeen posted:

Out prayers and thoughts go to the Abbey community as Ambrose rejoins the Father.

July 3 at 7:00 PM



Ronald Melancon posted:

Many good remembrances of St Benedict and Father Ambrose.

July 3 at 7:00 PM



Dottie posted:

Rest in peace, Fr. Ambrose.

July 3 at 7:00 PM



Lina C posted:

"(His) strife is o'er, (his) battle done ..." May he rest in peace. From the entire Cavell family

July 3 at 7:00 PM



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The Staff Of E posted:

Offering our deepest condolences during this difficult time.

July 2 at 7:00 PM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Fr. by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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