



The Right Rev. Abbot Anselm Nagy was born on Feb. 1, 1915, in Buják, a town in Northern Hungary. After graduation in the "Saint Emery School" of Budapest in 1934, he entered the novitiate of the Order. He studied theology in Zirc and Rome, completing a doctoral degree in 1942 at the Pontifical University "Angelicum." He was ordained to the priesthood in 1941, followed by three years as an assistant pastor at the rural parish of Előszállás.

After the war, in September 1945, he superiors sent him to the West to explore ways of providing for those Hungarian Cistercians whom the new Communist regime was about to force into exile. He arrived to the United States in April 1946. After visiting the Cistercian monastery of Spring Bank in Wisconsin he began serving as an assistant pastor of the Hungarian church of St. Stephen in Toledo, Ohio, an assignment he cherished which introduced Fr. Anselm to American life. In 1949 he returned to Spring Bank and was made Subprior and novice master. He also began studying at Marquette University in Milwaukee and

eventually obtained a Masters degree in Mathematics.

On Feb. 1, 1953, the majority of the Hungarians living in Spring Bank decided to start a foundation elsewhere. Chosen as their superior, Fr. Anselm was asked to lead the transfer of his group to Dallas where the Cistercians played a decisive role at the foundation of the University of Dallas. In 1962 the Cistercian Preparatory School opened its doors to its first fifty students, a new task for the growing priory. In the following year, 1963, the monastery was raised to the rank of an abbey and the former prior, Fr. Anselm, was elected as its first abbot. He served in this position until 1975. In 1976, the abbey's new constitutions went into effect and Fr. Anselm was again elected abbot for two consecutive terms for a total of twelve years. He served as the abbot of "Our Lady of Dallas" until April. 4, 1988.

Soon after retiring from his abbatial duties, he was diagnosed with lung cancer. Chemotherapy caused more suffering than healing. The evening before he died he expressed gratitude for his life and God's abundant blessings received by his monastery. He died in St. Paul's hospital on Aug. 4, 1988 at the age of 73.

ABBOT ANSELM

- 1915-1988
- Born: Feb. 1, 1915
- Entered Zirc in 1934
- Ordained: 1941
- Moved to Our Lady of Dallas: 1953
- Served as abbot from: 1963-1975 & 1976-1988
- Died: Aug. 4, 1988