



Born as Joseph Eidfried in Gádor, Hungary. Joseph attended the Cistercian School of Baja, where he graduated from high school in 1938. On August 29th of the same year he became a novice of the abbey of Zirc. He was ordained a priest in 1944. Three years later, in 1947, Fr. Odo obtained his Ph.D. in German (language and literature). Because his family was of German nationality, he was allowed to leave Hungary in 1949, one year before the Order's suppression. He lived in Wisconsin for a year, then taught in a Chicago Catholic school from 1950-1951. Afterwards he did post-graduate studies in Buffalo, N.Y. In 1953 Fr. Odo moved to Texas and for two years taught school at Our Lady of Victory in Ft. Worth.

He was on the first faculty of the University of Dallas as it opened in 1956, teaching German language and literature. Throughout his life he kept publishing. His biography of St. Bernard of Clairvaux (*St. Bernard: His Life and Teaching*, 1961) has been particularly successful. In 1990 it was translated into both Italian and Hungarian. In 1970 Fr. Odo underwent surgery for cancer of the kidney. During the following sabbatical year, he was apparently cured. He received much inner strength and inspiration from his studies of the mystical spirituality of St. Mechtild of Helfta about whom he wrote several scholarly and devotional papers. In May, 1979 the cancer resurfaced in his bones. After much physical suffering he died on August 4, 1979.

FR. ODO

- 1918-1979
- Born: 1918
- Entered Zirc on Aug. 29, 1938
- Ordained: 1944
- Moved to Our Lady of Dallas: 1953
- Died: Aug. 4, 1979