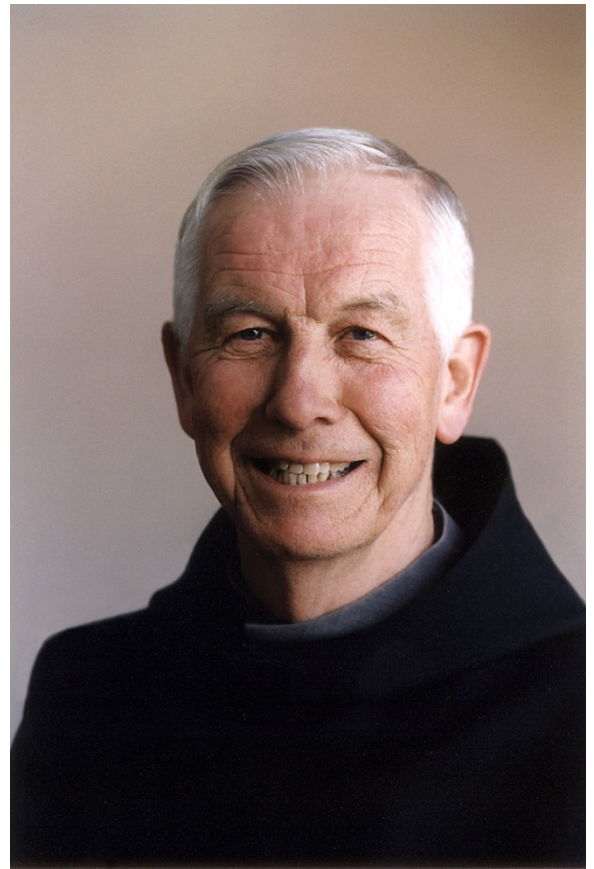


Brother Columba Coyne
December 18, 1931- April 30, 2015
Monastic Profession: July 11, 1960

IN THE BEAUTY OF SPRINGTIME OUR BROTHER COLUMBA peacefully entered into his Eternal Spring singing an Easter Alleluia! He passed into the fullness of God's presence on April 30, 2015, after a long struggle with Alzheimer-related illness along with additional medical complications. His last day was spent in the hospital happily asking over and over again if the snow was gone and the ground was open so that we could start planting again. Brother Columba's favorite season was springtime and his love of nature and the garden mark in simplicity the depth of his gift in monastic life. The garden and the space around the pond in the front of the monastery were a place of hospitality where he welcomed so many and made them feel at home. He was the traditional monastic gate-keeper – opening for all!

We are so grateful for the 57 years of faithful monastic commitment that he shared with our community of brothers. While we miss him, we know that he now shares the joy of God's presence and continues planting the seeds of Alleluia in all our smiling hearts as we remember him. You live on in our peace and love, brother Columba! ■



Hubert Schriebl photo 2002

Brother Columba used the medium of poetry to express his search for God in his monastic life and in his love of the earth. The following poem he wrote on April 28, 1977, speaks of his quest:

what is it that
makes one write verse?

is it the quiet thrill
each moment born naked
until clothed in words
hung on halting tongue
and freed from quivering teeth?

is it to rival some
boasting robin:
I'll sing though no one hears?

or is it from the beat
of rain on one's roof
no clock measures,
no historian records?

or is it simply wonder —
fully someone greater than
you within who dashes about
with bits of salt and coals
of fire until you singe
paper and pen? ■