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# Memorial Biography for Brother David Petry

Archabbot Timothy Sweeney  
*Saint Meinrad Archabbey*

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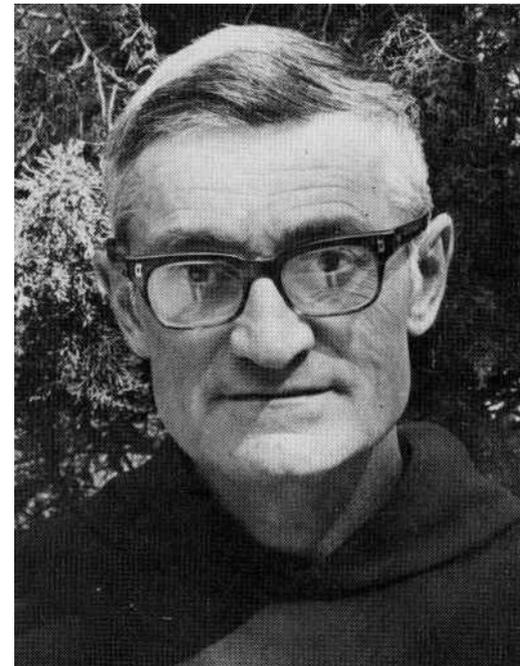
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## PRAYER

*Merciful Father, eternal shepherd, hear the prayers of your faithful people for your servant, David. 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 Jesus Christ, Your Son, Our Lord, who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.*



**BROTHER DAVID PETRY, O.S.B.**

*Monk of Saint Meinrad Archabbey*

1931-1985

Died peacefully in the Lord

November 14, 1985

## PEACE

On Thursday, November 14, 1985 Brother David Petry, O.S.B., a monk of Saint Meinrad Archabbey, died peacefully in the Lord after a long and lingering illness.

Brother David, born November 6, 1931 in Floral Park, New York, was named John by his parents, Joseph and Frances (Olinger) Petry. He had four brothers and seven sisters. After attending parochial school in Floral Park, he entered in 1945 St. Placid Hall at St. Meinrad, a secondary school for young men considering a monastic vocation. After finishing high school he then entered the monastery, professing temporary vows in 1951, and making his final profession in 1954. For over 34 years he faithfully lived the life of a monk.

Brother David began his life as a monk by learning to be a baker. From 1950 to 1962 he practiced this delicate art and in a short time became chief baker for the abbey. Often enough, the seminary students could smell the freshly baked bread and pies as they tried to keep their attention on their studies.

From 1962 to 1964 he aided in the abbey kitchen after receiving schooling. But his real love flourished in 1964 when, in the footsteps of his deceased uncle, Father Eberhard

Olinger, O.S.B., he was appointed supervisor of our grounds and in addition was given the vineyard and wine-making as his responsibility.

With much effort and diligence he directed and labored in arranging the details of landscaping and the maintenance of our grounds. Certainly, the beauty of the abbey grounds is due in large measure to his care and hard work.

Having spent a year in upstate New York learning the art of wine-making at a renowned winery, he returned to St. Meinrad to continue and improve on the tradition of providing Mass and table wine for the monastic community. He expanded the vineyard and added new varieties of grapes. Very knowledgeable in grape-growing and wine-making, he regularly took advantage of opportunities to learn even more about this delicate art.

In 1984 Brother David was appointed to assist the Novice/Junior Master in the preparation of novices and young monks in discerning their vocations. He remained in this position until his death. Brother David was a man of measured life. He was not one given to frenzied activity, but rather lived his life according to the measured regularity of the Rule of St. Benedict, always faithful to the

prayer and work of the Rule. He loved the out-of-doors and found in Creation a real source and inspiration for his prayer life. Afflicted with a terminal illness, he served as an example of the real meaning of Christian death through the last months of his life on this earth. He was patient in his suffering and concentrated on the spiritual aspects of life and death, something not foreign to him, since throughout his life he was an example of what it means to be a Christian and a monk. In God's Providence he was called, but a grieving monastic community and his family deeply regret his absence.

Office of the Dead will be prayed on November 15 at 4:15 P.M. (EST) in the Archabbey Church. The Funeral Liturgy will be celebrated at 9:30 A.M. (EST) on Saturday, November 16, in the Archabbey Church. Burial will be in the Archabbey Cemetery. For the repose of his soul three Masses will be offered by each monk of the Archabbey. The customary suffrages of charity are recommended to all monks of our Congregation.

*Archabbot Timothy  
and Community*

SAINT MEINRAD ARCHABBEY  
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