

The Right Reverend Philip Anderson, O.S.B. Abbot of Our Lady of Clear Creek Abbey

Abbot Philip Anderson converted to the Catholic Faith in the 1970's while attending the University of Kansas. The university had just begun an experimental integrated humanities program under the direction of John Senor and two other professors that was steeped in the classics and tradition. In emphasizing "the true" and "the real", the program was an antidote to the cynicism and relativism already prevalent in American culture. Professor John Senor, himself a convert, held that truth is ultimately found in the Roman Catholic Church. The program was eventually shut down in the late 1970's for being too successful: it is estimated over 150 students converted to the Faith in the few years it was allowed to exist.

Professor Senor heard that two of his students intended to make a pilgrimage to Europe and urged them to visit a monastery in France called Fontgombault. He had hoped they might bring a monk back to the States to establish a similar monastery near Kansas. The Superior of the Abbey at Fontgombault, Abbot John Roy, said he could not release a monk but would allow the students to come back for a longer stay. The students did return, and one of them, Abbot Anderson, eventually entered the monastery. Other Americans followed for visits, and some of those entered as well. Of the Americans that persevered, seven were among the thirteen founders of Our Lady of Clear Creek Monastery in Hulbert, Oklahoma.

Clear Creek Abbey, founded in 1999, gained Abbey status February 10, 2010. Abbot Anderson said he "always thought [a monastery] would happen". Thirty-six years after he entered Fontgombault, it did.



Abbot Philip Anderson, August 2, 2012