

Rev. Owen L. Tekippe, OSB  
Born December 27, 1907  
Ordained to the priesthood June 10, 1935  
Born into eternal life September 15, 1989



Rev. Owen L. Tekippe, OSB, 81, of Humacao, Puerto Rico, died Sept. 15, of complications following treatment for cancer.

He was born Dec. 27, 1907 to William J. and Mary Drilling Tekippe on the home farm located between Festina and Fort Atkinson, now owned by Linus Tekippe. He was baptized Linus Gregor at Our Lady of Seven Dolors Church, Festina, and received his early education at the parish school. In 1922 Linus began to attend St. John's High School in Minnesota, operated by the Benedictine monks of Collegeville.

In 1929 he took vows in the Order of St. Benedict, receiving the name Owen. In 1935 he was ordained to the priesthood.

He received a bachelor of arts degree from St. John's, Collegeville, and a master's degree in physics from the University of Minnesota.

Fr. Owen taught at St. John's from 1937 to 1940 and served at San Beda College in Manila, Philippines, from 1940 to 1946. Three years of that time, 1942 to 1945, the monastery where he lived was turned into a prison by the Japanese occupation, and he was a prisoner of war, living in subhuman conditions.

In 1946 he returned briefly to the United States, then moved on to the Mexican Benedictine Foundation in Mexico City and Toluca. In 1951 Fr. Owen moved to Colegio San Antonio Abad in Humacao, Puerto Rico. He spent the next 22 years in teaching and in administration, both in schools and in his religious community. He was prior of the Benedictine community on the island from 1951 to 1967.

At the age of 65, when asked by his religious superior what he would like to do, Fr. Owen requested to give the teaching over to laypeople, and to spend full time in parish work. He served as a parish priest from 1973 to 1983 in Yabucoa, and from 1983 on at a parish in Humacao. He took special joy in helping couples in troubled marriages find greater harmony. He was hospitalized for cancer surgery shortly after Christmas of 1988.

Survivors include his four brothers: Leo of Decorah, Iowa; Roman of Calmar, Iowa; Nilus of Northbrook, Illinois; and Paul of Fort Atkinson, Iowa; as well as nieces and nephews. Preceding him in death were his parents and a sister, Sister Sarah, OSB.

The Mass of the Resurrection was celebrated at 2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 16, and burial was at the cemetery of Monasterio San Antonio Abad, Humacao, Puerto Rico.