

# SAINT BEDE ABBEY AND ACADEMY

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Brother George Matsuoka  
1921-2020

Brother George Matsuoka, O.S.B., monk of Saint Bede Abbey in Peru, IL, passed away the morning of Easter Sunday on April 12, 2020 at the age of 98. He entered the novitiate at St. Bede in 1943, professed his vows on May 17, 1944 and celebrated his 75th anniversary of profession in 2019.

Brother George was born in Chicago, Illinois on August 27, 1921 to George and Emma (Laudstrom) Matsuoka. After his mother's untimely passing, George was raised by his father for a short time before making the difficult decision to entrust George's care to the religious sisters of the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ who staffed the Angel Guardian Orphanage.

Upon arriving at St. Bede in 1942, Brother George worked in the bakery and then the Abbey print shop. When he received a driver's license he began making deliveries for the print shop. Brother George's deliveries always took longer than expected because he would stop along the way to give tins of cookies to his many friends. Throughout his time at St. Bede, Brother George would frequently give students bags of cookies to give them extra energy for their extracurricular activities.

After Brother George's retirement from the print shop, he began the tradition of greeting students at the beginning and end of each school day to shake their hands. He enjoyed this so much it became his main ministry, which he did with a smile each and every day. Brother George always personified St. Benedict's directive to receive everyone as if they were Christ.

In 2009, Brother George was inducted into the St. Bede Athletic Hall of Fame. At Homecoming in 2018; a life-size, bronze statue was dedicated to St. Bede Academy in his honor. Great affection and reverence for Brother George was held by many. He will always be the faithful presence at the top of the entrance stairs of the school extending Benedictine hospitality to all. May those who knew him pray to God in gratitude for the many blessings Brother George has given us.

A private reception for Brother George Matsuoka, O.S.B., was held at the St. Bede Abbey Church on Tuesday, April 14, 2020. Mass of Christian burial was held on Wednesday, April 15th with Abbot Philip Davey, O.S.B. presiding, with interment in the Abbey cemetery. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, these services were not open to the public. A memorial mass will be celebrated for Brother George at an appropriate time in the future when we can all safely gather together.

Mueller Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements. Memorial gifts may be directed to St. Bede.

