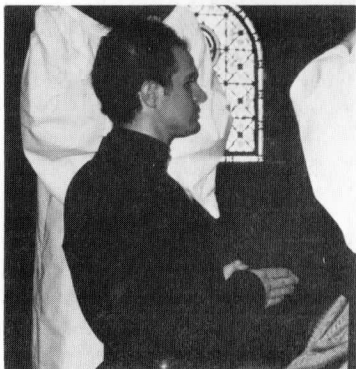


# THE NOVITIATE



Mr. Gregory Michael Sick, of Bowling Green, Missouri was admitted into the Novitiate of Christ the King Abbey on Sunday, July 14, 1996. Henceforth, Mr. Sick will be known as Frater Vincent, O.S.B.



The Abbot (or Prior) is the spiritual father of a Family of Benedictine Monks. Because he is the father, he alone has the privilege and the right to call his sons unto himself and into the family of the community. The abbot, is, in every truth, a father. He is not a mere administrator of a monastic institute, limited by a term of office. A father is for life. Therefore, his is the voice that is heard by the young man seeking admission. Any other voice can only be that of a hireling, strange to the ears of the one who seeks entrance into the sheepfold. It matters not the dignity of the one who calls. If he is not of the family, his is the voice of a stranger. Just as in the priesthood there is an unbroken chain that leads directly to Our Blessed Lord, Himself, so there is an unbroken chain here that leads to our Most Holy Father Benedict. The relationship between the abbot and the monk is very close, and the shepherd's care he gives his sons is very real. The love between father and son cannot be fully understood by one who is not of the Family of Benedict.

