

STAINED GLASS WINDOWS

The Abbey recently installed four very beautiful leaded stained glass windows in the Abbey Church. These nearly life sized windows were constructed by Bovard Studio of Fairfield, Iowa, and were wonderfully fashioned after the famed Munich Stained Glass Windows. The monks feel very fortunate to have them, especially since they fit so well with the good and solid traditional Benedictine atmosphere. The windows depict the images of St. Scholastica, St. Boniface, St. Gregory the Great, and St. Hildegarde of Bingen, all of whom are Benedictines.

The Donors of the windows have wished that they be dedicated in the following way:

- (1) St. Boniface — in memory of the late and great Abbot Boniface Seng, O.S.B. former Abbot of St. Bernard Benedictine Abbey in Cullman, Alabama.
- (2) St. Gregory the Great, also in memory of Abbot Boniface Seng, O.S.B.
- (3) St. Scholastica was given to the Honor of the Poor Souls in Purgatory.
- (4) St. Hildegarde was made possible by the terms of the Will of the late Mary Theresa DePiante.

St. Boniface was born in England in 680. Later with the permission of the pope he travelled to Germany and worked with the German tribes. He was baptized "Winfrid" but the Italian pope had difficulty with the name, and gave him the name "Boniface". It is said that he was very handsome. He destroyed pagan shrines, and chopped down the famous Oak Tree. He was martyred in 754. His Feast Day is celebrated on June 5.

St. Gregory the Great was born in 540. St. Gregory's zeal caused him to reform many of the religious observances of his day. He is best known for his work with music, and his name continues to ring out today in the "Gregorian Chant". He is also known for his "Dialogues" (short stories of St. Benedict). He died in 604 and his Feast Day is celebrated on March 12.

St. Scholastica was born about the year 480, and tradition has it that she was the twin sister of St. Benedict. She devoted herself to God from her childhood, and later founded and governed a community of nuns near Monte Cassino. She died about the year 543. Her Feast Day is celebrated on February 10.

St. Hildegarde was born in Germany in the year 1098. There is nobility in her family background. Because of certain handicaps she was from early life brought up in a small house of nuns. Later on in life she became superior of the convent and moved it to Bingen. St. Hildegarde enjoyed many visions, she advised popes, emperors and many learned men. Famous for her music, she also wrote on many subjects, including medicine and natural history. She was an excellent theologian. She died in 1179. Her Feast Day is celebrated on September 17.