**2000 Feb 29 Photo Notes**

NOTES:

1. 29 Feb 2000 is the date the photos were processed, not necessarily the date they were originally taken.
2. Unattributed comments on this page are by Br. Thomas Ferrell.
3. CSL was not given all the photos show on the index photo on attachment p. 1, but we do have the negatives.

I will start first with a little history on how we came to Iowa.  Martin Sheridan, was/is a maker of stringed instruments.  He had a shop in Chicago, where he worked Tuesday through Friday.  On Fridays he took Amtrak home to Ft. Madison.

One day he was passing by Atonement and stopped in for Mass, he saw the Brothers and became interested, and joined us as a postulant.

He invited us to come with him one weekend and we all caught the train and came down to Iowa.   We fell in love with Iowa, and after talks with Bishop Christopher Epting, the bishop invited us to the diocese.  And that explains the pictures of Ft. Madison.

p. 1 Index photo

# 8. The road that led to the priory at Donnellson

#13. The barn in its original state, no red cross, no bell tower, white door, (we painted it red) and you can see the old satellite dish in front.  This is the same dish that we turned into the fountain.   The base of the satellite dish held the red cross.

#14. The corner of the priory house and what may be the chicken coop

#15. The priory house

#17. The creek

The pictures of the priory are in its rough state. It's how it looked when we first arrived. There was just the house, a barn, and a chicken coop. The Brothers worked their butts off, to have a presentable chapel for the bishop. For many years we used old double-wide trailers for guest houses. They were homey and furnished nicely, but had mice problems.

p. 1 Lower picture

Br. Martin lived up on a high bluff in Ft. Madison, and we stayed at his house when we first visited.   This picture shows the view from his front porch.

If you look closely [on the right], you will see a church steeple that has four white corners to it.  That is St. Luke's Episcopal Church, taken from Br. Martin's front porch.

Br. Martin was a member of St. Luke's.  I took my life vows at  St. Luke's; I currently live a block from there. It was also the home parish of Rachel Albright, Betsy Ross's granddaughter.  When we were looking for a place to live in Iowa, we looked at the old Albright House, as it was up for sale.

The Albright House is 2 or 3 blocks from the church. In fact, the realtor gave it to us, but it was in terrible shape, and so Prior Michael John said, thanks but no thanks.  It would have cost too much to repair, and besides, he wanted something quieter and more secluded.  A couple from Chicago bought it, and have been coming down on week-ends for years to work on it.  I'm glad it was saved.

p. 2 Upper picture

Ft. Madison

p. 2 Lower picture & p. 3 upper picture

The skimpy looking trees were along the road leading up to the priory.

p. 3 Lower picture

The cows belonged to Ray Holt, our next door neighbor. He lived on 5 acres of priory property, but he owned his house.  He did not pay us rent, but when he would take the cows to market, he gave us a side of beef, every year.

p. 4 Upper picture

The creek that ran through the priory property

p. 4 Lower picture

The priory house is built into a hill and there is no back door.  You can see the roof about flush with the ground.

p. 5 Left hand picture

The priory tractor with the faulty ignition. Joe Campbell [now Br. Florian] fixed the ignition and Prior Michael John then drove off on it not realizing it had no brakes. [This anecdote courtesy of Br. Florian.]

p. 5 Right hand picture

Ft. Madison

St. Luke’s Episcopal Church, Ft. Madison, IA

This picture was not in the original 29 Feb 2000 pictures, but was added later.

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*~Edited by Br. Steven Joseph Olderr, September 2021*