



Father Paul Jerome Konkler, O.C.S.O.

Born Lancaster, Ohio	Jan 29, 1926
Entered the Christian Brothers	Aug 6, 1944
Novitiate	Sep 8, 1944
First vows	Dec 25, 1945
Perpetual vows	Sep 8, 1952
Entered Vina	Aug 4, 1959
Solemn Vows	Apr 22, 1962
Ordained	Jul 2, 1968
Entered Eternal Life	Dec 26, 2025

Father Paul Jerome was born to Edmund and Clara Fox Konkler. He attended St. Mary's Seminary, KY, for his senior year of high school and upon graduating entered the New York province of the Irish Christian Brothers. He studied at Fordham, New York University, and Immaculate Heart College, Los Angeles. After he obtained his B.A., he taught in schools sponsored by the Congregation in New York and the Congregation's missions in South Africa.

It was in his years of teaching that Father Paul realized a call to contemplative life and came to Vina in response to that desire.

Father Paul possessed a number of practical skills and in his early years in the monastery helped in the carpenter shop, the machine shop, and on electrical projects.

Father Paul served as director of novices from 1968-1981. While studying theology in preparation for the priesthood at Gethsemani Abbey, KY, he was told he would be appointed novice director upon his return to Vina. He consulted Gethsemani's renowned monk, Thomas Merton, as to what should be the focus of formation. Merton purportedly responded, "Have the novices read the Church Fathers". Hence, he began the patristic guided reading program for novices which continues today to form the basis of our novitiate formation.

In 1981 Father Paul was appointed monastery work secretary and maintenance monk but in May 1982 suffered a major heart attack. He took two years of sick leave to recover and upon his return to Vina in 1985 began to live as a hermit. Even as a hermit he continued to assist in formation, teaching moral and pastoral theology.

It was in his years as a hermit that he became renowned for his ministry to many who came to him for spiritual guidance and counsel. His was a gift of healing that touched monks and guests alike. He also had the gift of evangelization which led many to Jesus Christ and the Catholic Church. This ministry seemed to validate his purpose in life.

Father Paul was an independent person but in the last year his increased fragility caused the loss of this independence. This loss was perhaps his last greatest purification which he struggled to understand and accept. And at last, he surrendered himself in total trust to the mercy of God and crossed over into eternity during the Christmas Octave.