

## Father Harold Kiheipua Meyer, O.C.S.O.

Born Kaunakakai, Molokai, HI	September 24, 1931
Entered Sacred Hearts Fathers	1954
Novitiate	August 14, 1956
First vows	August 15, 1957
Perpetual vows	September 14, 1960
Ordained to the priesthood	June 30, 1963
Entered Vina	August 12, 1973
Solemn vows	November 1, 1976
Entered Eternal Life	June 26, 2023

Father Harold was born to Penni (Henry) and Vera Silva Meyer. A native Hawaiian, he was proud of his heritage. His great-grandfather Rudolph Wilhelm Meyer, a German immigrant to Hawaii was superintendent of the leper settlement of Molokai and worked with St. Damian de Veuster.

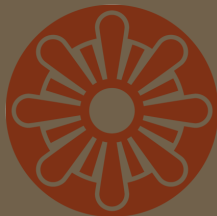
Father served in the US Army, June 1951-54. He was trained at the School of Engineering and then stationed in Germany where he operated power equipment and did diesel maintenance and repair. Upon his honorable discharge, he enrolled in the Sacred Hearts Seminary, Oahu, Hawaii. Upon completion of seminary and theological studies in Massachusetts, Vermont, and New Hampshire, he returned to Hawaii and completed a degree in English from the University of Hawaii. As a Sacred Hearts Father, he served first as a teacher in their seminary in Honolulu and then as provincial of the Hawaiian province from 1967-72.

He answered a call to Trappist-Cistercian life, entering Vina in 1973. In his 50 years of monastic life, Father Harold, served in temporal management. He was the monastery's prune orchardist from 1978-92. His meticulous eye for detail and organization created what might have been the best tended prune orchards in California in those years.

He joined Vina's foundation in Taiwan, Holy Mother of God Monastery, in 1994. He diligently studied Mandarin and remained two years. Upon his return to Vina, he served as monastery cellarer and then as monastery procurator (buyer) until his deteriorating health caused him to retire from regular responsibilities in 2015.

Father Harold had a strong work ethic. He was a determined person but this was tempered with gentleness and care for the well-being of others.

Father Harold suffered from both Parkinson's and Alzheimer's in his last years. Through all this diminishment, he remained committed to the Divine Office, the common life, and to manual labor until three days before his death.



THE ABBEY OF  
**NEW CLAIRVAUX**  
— VINA, CALIFORNIA —