

**BUT THE LAUGHTER REMAINS
ON THE LORD'S CALLING OUR ESTEEMED AND WELL LOVED FR. PLACID MC
SWEENEY, OCSO , ST. JOSEPH'S ABBEY, MONDAY, MARCH 20, 2000.**

He was a light to all who knew him.
His was a wisdom that sparkled,
dispelling gloom, fostering joy.

First to see the humor in things,
especially his own foibles,
he never allowed pomposity
or lugubrious piety
to smother the simple gladness
and solicitude of God's love.

He was a merchant of joy,
his light touch capturing God's light
to all who took the time to hear
the sounds of love in his laughter
and paused long enough to notice
the hope reflected in his smile.

Beneath that captivating cheer
hid the humble, self-effacing monk,
faithful plodder of the cloister,
who shaped and sculpted liturgy
into meaningful devotion—
his ear attuned to the sublime,
his heart focused on the divine.

He lived well and will be missed,
but in his passing we are blest
to recall his gentle, joshing ways—
he'd frown if we aren't smiling.

Br. Barnabas Brownsey OCSO
Holy Cross Abbey
March 25, 2000 Feast of the Annunciation
AJPM + J

*Br. Barnabas sent this
to pass on to you*