

From: Ted Ley comment on "Monk Riders in the Sky"  
Nov 7, 2018, 10:08 AM (6 days ago)  
to me

This is very probably by Brother Louis Thein of the St. Louis Province. (Their pronounced "tyne")

The "movie cowboy" song, Ghost Riders in the Sky, was a crossover hit around 1947. It was first recorded, I believe, by Foye Willing and the Riders of the Purple Sage -- it became their theme song. (I know that because the Riders ceased performing only a couple years ago. My brother Mike was the group's last co-director and bassist!) The popular singer Vaughn Monroe had a big hit with his recording of the song.

Brother Thein liked to create folk type songs. He wrote one of his own, called, "The Bold Priest of Bordeaux."

I think a number of the St. Louis Brothers still living remember Bro. Thein (pronounced 'tyne').

So this is a parody he wrote as part of some fun music for get-togethers at the time of the American SM Tricentennial. That's my guess.

It is more an archival vignette than an accession into the SM composers collection. But I would put The Bold Priest of Bordeaux in the collection. (Should be easily found. I know some verses by heart and could write out the melody and guitar part.)

I will bet that Fr. George Montague knew Bro. Louis and can give you this information completely. Fr. Jim Mueller knew him; that I know.

Ted

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Ted Ley, S.M.  
November 2018