

April 9, 1949

Fr. Maurice Ackermann, OFM Cap



Father Ackermann was born July 3, 1879, at Benwood, W.Va. He received the name John at baptism. He received the Capuchin habit at St. Fidelis, Herman, Pa., on July 17, 1898. He made solemn vows on July 17, 1902, and was ordained June 21, 1904, by James Cardinal Gibbons in St. Mary's Cathedral, Baltimore, Md.

In his 45 years of priesthood, Father Maurice was active in many parishes and chaplaincies. In all he spent 19 years in the East, notably in Charleston, W. Va.; Pittsburgh, Pa., Cumberland, Md., Dover, Ohio, and Wheeling, W. Va.

He served 26 years in Kansas, chiefly at Herndon, Victoria, Catharine, Hays, Munjor, Ellis and Ness City. From these posts he attended the missions at Antonino, Bird City, St. Francis, Atwood, Tully, and Severin.

Father Maurice volunteered for an army chaplaincy during World War I and served as chaplain with a "colored" regiment in Camp Grant, Rockfort, Ill.

In his last appointment he served St. Aloysius Parish in Ransom, first from the friary at Ness City, and later as a resident pastor (1942-49). St. Aloysius Church was enlarged to double the seating capacity in 1945, but only after a favorable appeal to the War Production Board as building materials were restricted during World War II.

Father Maurice died on April 9, 1949, at St. Joseph Hospital in Kansas City, Mo., after a cancer operation.

Father Flavian Meis, superior at Sacred Heart, Ness City, celebrated the funeral Mass at St. Joseph Church, Hays. The Most Rev. Francis Thill, bishop of Salina, was in attendance. Burial was at St. Joseph Cemetery, Hays.