

July 16, 1951

Bishop Stephan A. Appelhans, SVD



Bishop Appelhans was born Dec. 27, 1905 in Pfeifer. His family moved to Spearville, where he attended St. John grade school. He began studying for the priesthood at Divine Word Seminary in Techny, Ill.

He later attended St. Gabriel's Seminary near Vienna, Austria, where he was ordained on May 5, 1932 for the Society of the Divine Word by the Most Rev. Franz Kamprath, auxiliary bishop of Vienna. He offered his first Mass at St. John's Church, Spearville on July 12, 1932.

After serving as prefect of students at St. Paul's Preparatory Seminary, Epworth, Ill., and at Holy Ghost Preparatory Seminary, East Troy, Wisc., he volunteered for work in the war-stricken mission of New Guinea. He was Superior of both the eastern and central mission districts.

He was appointed Vicar Apostolic of Eastern New Guinea and ordained to the episcopacy by Cardinal Samuel Stritch, archbishop of Chicago, Nov. 30, 1948.

Bishop Appelhans served the Church in East New Guinea until his death on July 16, 1951. On that day, when returning from the consecration of a new church, Bishop Appelhans and six others died when their airplane crashed into the sea just off the coast of Lac during a storm.

Bishop Leo Arkfeld, vicar apostolic of Central New Guinea, celebrated the funeral July 17, 1951. Burial was at Alexishafen, the See City of East New Guinea.

On July 23, 1951, Bishop Carroll celebrated a Pontifical Mass of Requiem at St. Mary's Cathedral in Wichita. Father Arnold Weller offered a Requiem High Mass at St. John the Baptist Church in Spearville.

His sister, Sister Josine Appelhans, was an Adorer.