

**September 4, 1979**

**Father Henry Balster, CPPS**



Father Balster was born June 9, 1912, in Carthagena, Ohio. He entered the Society of the Precious Blood in 1927. He professed vows in the Society in 1931, and was ordained May 7, 1939, at St. Charles Seminary in Cathagena by the Most Rev. George Rehring, auxiliary bishop of Cincinatti.

He served as an auxiliary missionary at Carthagena in 1939 before beginning his parish assignments.

He was an assistant at St. Joseph, Wapakoneta, Ohio, for six years (1939-45).

His pastorates took him to four states: St. Joseph, Sedalia, Mo. (1950-53); St. Joan of Arc, Elkhart (1953-59); St. Mary of the Woods, McQuady, Ky., (1959-69); and St. Wendelin, St. Wendelin, Ohio (1969-79).

During his pastorate at Elkhart, Father Balster served St. Helen, Hugoton, as a mission from 1953 until a resident pastor was appointed there in 1957. A new rectory was constructed in Elkhart in 1956.

In addition to his pastoral work, he served as treasurer of Brunnerdale High School Seminary in Canton, Ohio, from 1945 to 1950.

Father Balster died unexpectedly in the rectory of St. Wendelin Parish on Sept. 4, 1979. He was 67. Archbishop Nicholas Elko, auxiliary of Cincinnati, celebrated the funeral Mass at St. Charles Seminary. Burial was in the community cemetery at Carthagena.

The Precious Blood Fathers remember Father Balster as one of their most cheerful and easy-going members. He loved to fish and play cards, but most of all he was a good, simple priest loved by his people.