

January 15, 1978

Father Eugene Becker, OFM Cap



Father Eugene (Francis Joseph Becker) was born Sept. 13, 1882, at Great Belt, Pa. He and his brother John graduated from St. Fidelis Seminary and entered the Capuchin Order. They were invested in the habit July 16, 1899. Joseph became Eugene and John became Julius. They made their simple profession together July 16, 1900, and their solemn profession July 17, 1903. They were not ordained together as Eugene had not reached the canonical age required for ordination.

The Most Rev. Alfred Curtis, auxiliary bishop of Baltimore, ordained Father Eugene July 29, 1905, in SS. Peter and Paul Church, Cumberland, Md.

He was stationed in parishes in Pittsburgh, Pa.; Dover, Ohio; New Philadelphia, Ohio; Wheeling, W.Va.; Rochester, Pa.; Charleston, W.Va.; Westerville, Ohio; and in Kansas at St. Agnes, Yocemento, (1909-11); St. Aloysius, Ransom, (1939-42); Sacred Heart, Ness City, (1942-46); St. Mary's, Marienthal, (1949-1953).

He taught at St. Joseph's College, Hays from 1908 to 1914, and from 1923 to 1927. He was involved in missionary work in Puerto Rico from 1930 to 1937.

He served as chaplain at the Dominican Motherhouse in Great Bend, (1947-49; and 1958-65). He retired in 1965 at the age of 83. When he left southwest Kansas, after 27 years of service, Bishop Forst presented him with the Guadalupe Award.

Father Eugene died Jan. 15, 1978, at the age of 95. Father Brendan Malloy, provincial, celebrated the funeral Mass at St. Mary's Church, Herman, Pa. Burial was in the friars' plot of St. Mary's Cemetery.