

July 31, 1991

Father Cletus Bihn, CPPS



Father Bihn was born Aug. 2, 1905 at Mallet Creek, Ohio, near Medina. He was incorporated in the Society of the Precious Blood in 1929, and ordained May 6, 1937, at St. Charles Seminary in Carthagena, Ohio, by the Most Rev. Joseph Albers, auxiliary of Cincinnati.

In his first assignment he served as associate pastor at St. Joseph, Wapakoneta, Ohio (1937-39). He then transferred to Sea Bright, N.J., to assist at Holy Cross parish for four years. In 1943 to 1948 he served in dual roles as associate and organist at Our Lady of Good Counsel, Cleveland.

Father Bihn moved out West to fulfill a pro-tem pastorate at Groveport, Okla, before being assigned pastor at St. Patrick, Plains (1948-56). He also served the mission of St. John the Baptist, Meade, until 1954 when a resident pastor was appointed there. During his pastorate at Plains, the parish built a school which was dedicated by Bishop Carroll on Nov. 27, 1950. He was the last Precious Blood Father to serve at Plains.

After eight years on the Kansas plains he journeyed to Kentucky's hills to serve as pastor of St. Romuald Parish in Hardinsburg. The church was enlarged and remodeled during his pastorate (1956-64).

After suffering a heart attack, he relinquished his Kentucky pastorate and returned to Ohio, where he took on the pastoral care of St. Joseph, Victoria (1964-73), and then St. Francis, Cranberry Prairie (1973-79). He retired to St. Charles Seminary in Carthagena on June 10, 1979.

Father Bihn died July 31, 1991. He was 85. Father Daniel Schafer, a nephew, celebrated his funeral at St. Charles Seminary. Burial was in the community cemetery.