

July 9, 1911

Father William Bitter

Father Bitter was born Nov. 8, 1852, in Worringen near Cologne, Germany. He was ordained Nov. 8, 1885, for the Leavenworth diocese by the Most Rev. Michael Heiss, archbishop of Milwaukee, at St. Francis Seminary, Milwaukee, Wisc.

In 1885, Father Bitter was appointed pastor at St. Joseph, Liebenthal. He also served the mission churches of St. Anthony, Schoenchen, and Holy Cross, Pfeifer, both in Ellis County; St. Augustine, Rush Center, in Rush County; and the Church of the Nativity, Templeton, in Ness County (which later became St. Mary's, McCracken).

He was pastor of Immaculate Conception, Wellington (1887-90) and St. Rose of Lima, Danville (1890-92).

In 1892, Bishop Hennessy, serving as administrator of the Concordia diocese, sent Father Bitter to Herndon in Rawlins County to end the bickering between two parishes. The church, under construction since 1889, was completed and the church in the country was moved to town and used as a parish school. He was pastor at St. Mary of the Assumption in Herndon until 1894 when he was transferred to St. John the Baptist Church at Beloit.

Father Bitter served in Beloit until 1894 and then left Kansas. His ministry took him to Minocqua, Wisc., in the Diocese of La Crosse; Jacksonville, Ore., in the Archdiocese of Oregon City, and Coronado Beach, Calif., in the Diocese of Monterey and Los Angeles.

Both the dioceses of Dodge City and Salina have records indicating that Father Bitter died on July 9, 1911. His assignment at the time of his death and his final resting place are not yet known.