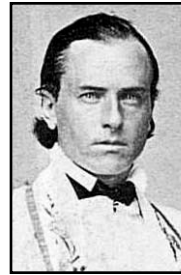


December 1, 1876

Father Phillip Colleton, SJ



Father Colleton was born March 17, 1821 in Donaghmoyne, County Monaghan, Ireland. He was ordained for the Society of Jesus July 18, 1863, by Archbishop Peter Kenrick at St. Francis Xavier Church in St. Louis. He was sent to St. Mary's Mission in Kansas as a teacher and missionary to the Potawatomi.

In 1867, he was assigned to Osage Mission (St. Paul). His stations included the border counties of Missouri and Arkansas, the lands of the Cherokee, Peoria, and Seneca tribes in Indian Territory and the Kansas counties of Crawford, Cherokee, Labette, Montgomery and Neosho.

Between 1868 and 1869, Father Colleton set up 15 stations, two of which were located in the Dodge City diocese. He established a station at Fort Larned for railroad men and Catholic soldiers, celebrating Mass in a garrison, and another station in Dodge City for railroad workers where he celebrated Mass in a section house.

Father Colleton promoted a system of Catholic settlements. Between 1869 and 1871, he built nine small churches in the Wichita diocese and was instrumental in settling in their vicinity 840 Catholic families.

Father Colleton's missionary labors came to an abrupt end in the summer of 1876 following a serious injury received while he was traveling on a handcar from Ladore to Parsons. For six months his condition was critical; he then seemed to improve and was apparently on the road to recovery when death took him.... He died Dec. 1, 1876, at the age of 55. (*Beacon on the Plains*, pp. 191-200)

The funeral Mass was celebrated at St. Francis Church, Osage Mission. Burial was in the parish cemetery.