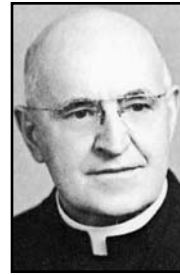


August 9, 1959

Father Richard Dei



Father Dei was born March 20, 1875 in Wheeling, W. Va. He was ordained for the Capuchin order on June 14, 1898 by Cardinal James Gibbons in Baltimore.

His assignments as a Capuchin Father took him to Hays (1898-1906); Charleston, W. Va., (1906-09); Cumberland, Md. (1909-12); Pittsburgh, Pa., (1912); Wheeling, W. Va., (1912-12), and back to Hays (1913).

He joined the clergy of the Wichita diocese in 1914. He served in the following pastoral assignments: St. Joseph, Ashland, with the missions St. John, Coldwater, and St. John, Zenda (1914-1917); St. Mary, Sitka, with the missions at Ashland, Coldwater and Zenda (1917-23); St. Nicholas, Kinsley (1923-26); St. Joseph, Yates Center, with Immaculate Conception, Owl Creek (1926-30); chaplain at Mount St. Mary's Convent, Wichita (1930-39); chaplain at Winfield Hospital, with St. Mary's, Oxford, as a mission (1939-41), and St. Martin's, Caldwell (1941-44).

An interesting story accompanies Father Dei's pastorates in Clark County. For several years he slept in the sacristy of the Ashland church. His requests for a rectory fell on deaf ears. When land became available seven miles to the east at Sitka, Father Dei encouraged Volga-German families whom he knew from Ellis and Rush Counties to move to the area. These families constructed a rectory for Father Dei prior to building their church. Ashland then lost their resident pastor and became Sitka's mission.

In 1944, Father Dei retired to Wheeling, W. Va. He died there on Aug. 9, 1959, at the age of 84. The funeral Mass was celebrated at St. Alphonsus Church. Burial was in Mount Calvary Cemetery at Wheeling.