

January 7, 1962

Father Stanislaus Esser



Father Esser was born in the village of Pfersee, near Augsburg, Germany, Feb. 4, 1893. He was ordained for the Capuchin Order at St. Mary's College, Emmitsburg, Md., on Sept. 22, 1918, by the Most Rev. Owen Patrick Bernard Corrigan, auxiliary bishop of Baltimore.

After serving as a Capuchin Priest in Pennsylvania and Kansas for seven years, he left the order with the approval of his superior, to join the Diocese of Wichita "so that he could support his poverty-stricken mother who was living alone in Germany." He supported his mother until her death in 1958. (AR Jan. 19, 1962)

Father Esser served in three assignments in the territorial boundaries of the Diocese of Dodge City: St. Patrick, Plains, with St. Anthony, Liberal, as a mission (1926-1931); Sts. Peter and Paul, North Kinsley, with St. Anthony, Hanston, as a mission (1931-1938); and St. Joseph, Beaver, (1938-1942).

In the Diocese of Wichita, he served as chaplain at Mercy Hospital in Fort Scott, and as pastor at Holy Name of Jesus, Bushton; Sacred Heart, Colwich; and St. Mark at St. Mark.

Father Esser died of a heart attack at the age of 68 on Jan. 7, 1962, in his seventh year as pastor at St. Mark. Bishop Carroll celebrated his funeral at St. Mark's Church with Bishop Leo Byrne on Jan. 10. He was remembered by Bishop Carroll as "a good priest, who labored in (the) diocese 36 years ... a kind and zealous priest of God." The study of Sacred Scripture was of great interest to Father Esser. Among other achievements, he translated the Psalms into German poetical form. (ibid)