

March 17, 1904

Bishop Louis Mary Fink, OSB



Bishop Fink was born June 12, 1834 at Triftersberg, Bavaria, Germany. He was professed as a Brother of the Order of St. Benedict Jan. 6, 1854. He was ordained by Bishop Joshua Young of Erie May 28, 1857. He was named Prior of St. Benedict's Priory at Atchison in 1868.

Pope Pius IX named him Coadjutor Vicar Apostolic of Kansas to Bishop Miede on March 1, 1871. He was consecrated by Bishop Thomas Patrick Roger Foley at St. Joseph's Church in Chicago.

He succeeded Bishop Miede on Nov. 18, 1874. He was appointed bishop of Leavenworth when the state, which had been a vicariate territory, was established as a diocese. He witnessed two divisions of his diocese. The establishment of the Concordia and Wichita dioceses in 1887, and the subsequent removal of five additional counties to Concordia and 14 additional counties to Wichita in 1897.

W.J. Onahan in "Catholic Colonization of the West," characterized Bishop Fink as "one of the most active and zealous of the western prelates in encouraging colonization and providing for the wants and necessities of the Catholic settlers." He prevented Catholic immigrants from scattering widely by organizing viable parish groups and aiding Catholic colonies. (Kansas Monks, p. 204)

Bishop Fink died March 17, 1904 at the age of 69. His funeral Mass was celebrated at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Leavenworth, by the Most Rev. John Glennon, archbishop of St. Louis. Burial was in Mount Olivet Cemetery at the Sisters of Charity motherhouse in Leavenworth.