

November 12, 1960

Father Matthew Hall, OSB



Father Matthew (John “Henry” Hall) was born June 25, 1904 at Seward. He attended St. Joseph School in Ellinwood for seven years of his elementary education. He attended high school and college at St. Benedict’s, Atchison. In 1927, he entered the Benedictine novitiate at St. Vincent’s Archabbey in Latrobe, Pa. He was ordained May 24, 1933, by Bishop Francis Johannes of Leavenworth in St. Benedict’s Church, Atchison.

He was appointed assistant at St. Benedict’s Parish, Atchison, devoting special work to the African-Americans (1934-41). Bishop Johannes commended this work on the occasion of his quinquennial report to the Holy See.

Father Matthew served in three pastorates: Sts. Peter and Paul, Seneca (1941-47); St. Ann’s, Effingham (1947-49); and St. Joseph, Atchison (1949-59). He remodeled and painted the church and school at Seneca, and built the rectory and remodeled the church at Effingham. He was the founding pastor of St. Joseph, Atchison, and built the church and rectory.

He retired to St. Benedict’s Abbey after suffering a heart attack in 1959.

In addition to his pastoral duties, Father Matthew served as the state chaplain of both the Knights of Columbus (1944-45) and the Daughters of Isabella (1955-59).

Father Matthew died Nov. 12, 1960, while visiting his brother, Father Egbert Hall, pastor at St. Charles, Troy. The funeral Mass was celebrated at St. Benedict’s Abbey Church. Burial was in the abbey cemetery.

In addition to his brother, Father Matthew had a sister who entered the religious life: Sister Casmir Hall, OSB.