

**April 16, 1947**

**Father John Marks Handly, CSP**



Father Handly was born Jan. 23, 1871, in Winchester, Tenn. He was a convert to Catholicism; and was baptized Oct. 21, 1894, by Paulist Father Arthur Clark. He entered the Paulist novitiate in Washington, D.C., and was ordained June 9, 1899, at Catholic University by the Most Reverend Alfred A. Curtis, auxiliary bishop of Baltimore.

He became one of the best known Paulist missionaries in the country. His work carried him to almost every state in the Union and every province in Canada. In 1914, Bishop Hennessy requested that he preach a mission in Dodge City. After the mission, the Sacred Heart Church committee appealed to the bishop to name him pastor for at least six months. The Paulist superior consenting, Bishop Hennessy gave him the appointment to revive the religious spirit in the parish.

Father Handly's pastorate in Dodge City extended for two years. During that time he constructed a school and church building in the Mexican Village for the families of the men employed by the Santa Fe Railroad. He replaced Sacred Heart's frame church with a towering edifice of Spanish mission design that would later serve the Dodge City diocese as a cathedral. He also started the parish school. In May, 1917 he left Dodge City for Austin, Tex.

The last years of his life were spent at old St. Mary's Church in Chicago. There he began the tradition of the 54-day Novena Devotion.

Father Handly died April 16, 1947. A Solemn Mass of Requiem was offered at St. Mary's Church, Chicago, and also at Sacred Heart Church, Dodge City. He was buried in Winchester City Cemetery, Winchester, Tenn.