

**December 27, 1930**

### **Father Philip Knupfer, OFM Cap**



Father Philip was born Nov. 10, 1878, in Aichstetten, Baden-Württemberg, Germany. He was clothed in the habit of St. Francis at Herman, Pa., in 1901, and pronounced his solemn vows in the Capuchin Order on July 17, 1905. He was ordained June 19, 1908, and began his priestly work in Wheeling, W.Va.

In 1910, Father Philip was assigned to St. Mary, Marienthal, with charge of the missions. During his three years at Marienthal he cared for the following missions: St. Ignatius, Nonchalanta; Sacred Heart, Ness City; St. Aloysius, Ransom; St. Anthony at St. Theresa; St. Joseph's, Scott City; and the stations at Alamota, Bazine, Dighton, and Healy.

“The work in Kansas was a real test of his spirit. But nothing daunted him. Who can record his missionary journeys on foot, by slow-moving wagons, on freight trains and in cabooses through the burning heat of summer and the driving wind and snow of a western winter?

“He wielded his pen in behalf of souls. A history of his missions in Kansas, newspaper articles, and stories in our humble little *Journal* were but further outlets of his burning zeal.” (*St. Francis Home Journal*, February 1931)

His only other assignment in Kansas was St. Mary's, Ellis (1913-15). In his remaining assignments he served at parishes and with the Capuchin communities at SS. Peter and Paul, Cumberland, Md.; St. Augustine's, Pittsburgh, Pa.; and St. Alphonsus, Wheeling, W.Va.

Father Philip died in Wheeling, W.Va., Dec. 27, 1930, at the age of 52. The funeral Mass was celebrated at St. Alphonsus Church. Burial was in the parish cemetery.