

January 3, 1948

Rev. Bernardine Kuhlmann OFM Cap



Father Bernardine (William Kuhlmann) was born in Cumberland, Md., Aug. 17, 1870. He attended St. Fidelis Seminary in Herman, Pa., where he received the Capuchin habit Feb. 19, 1889. He pronounced his simple vows Feb. 19, 1890 and solemn vows March 28, 1923. He was ordained June 20, 1895 by Bishop Alfred Curtis of Wilmington in the Cathedral of Baltimore.

After a year as a student priest, he began his long rugged career chiefly as a missionary in the poor, neglected parts of Ohio, West Virginia and Kansas.

His assignments included: St. Augustine's Monastery, Pittsburgh, Pa.; St. Alphonsus, Wheeling, W.Va.; St. Joseph Monastery, Dover, Ohio, (twice, serving 20 years there); and Charleston, W. Va., with missions.

In Kansas, he served at Marienthal, with missions (1905-06); Victoria (1906-07); Hays (1910-11 and 1921-22); St. Mary, Herndon, with missions at Atwood and Tully (1922-26); and St. Catherine's, Catharine, with the mission at Emmeram (1926-27).

Father Bernardine retired to St. Joseph Monastery, Dover, Ohio, in 1944. He died at Mercy Hospital at Canton on Jan. 3, 1948 at the age of 77. Bishop Michael Ready of Columbus celebrated a Pontifical Requiem Mass at St. Joseph's Church, Dover. Burial was at SS. Peter and Paul Monastery, Cumberland, Md.

Father Bernardine was the first Capuchin of St. Augustine Province officially appointed to Marienthal. Traveling by train, horse and buggy and often on foot, he regularly visited the missions at St. Theresa, Scott City, Healy, McCracken and other settlements without churches.