

**April 10, 1952**

**Rev. Herman Joseph Leiker, OFM Cap**



Father Herman Joseph (Ferdinand) was born Dec. 14, 1892 in Munjor. He entered the Capuchin Order in 1913 and was ordained Sept. 22, 1918, in St. Mary's Cathedral, Baltimore, Md., by the Most Rev. Owen Patrick Corrigan, auxiliary bishop of Baltimore. He first served as professor at St. Fidelis Seminary in Herman, Pa.

In 1921, Father Herman Joseph was appointed to the Capuchin Monastery at Marienthal where he took care of St. Ignatius, Nonchalanta, and St. John the Baptist, Bazine, for one year. The following year he attended the parishes of St. Anthony of Padua at St. Theresa; St. Joseph, Scott City; and the Catholic Mission House at Healy. This was to be his only assignment in the Dodge City diocese.

His remaining assignments in Kansas were in Herndon where he had charge of the missions at St. Joseph, Bird City, and St. Francis at St. Francis; St. Fidelis, Victoria; and St. Mary's, Ellis.

In 1937, he was appointed to St. Alphonsus in Wheeling, W.Va., where he would spend 15 years. Besides serving at St. Alphonsus, he also assisted at St. Anthony's, Bridgeport, Ohio, and Corpus Christi, Warwood, W.Va. At the time of his death, he was director of the Third Order at St. Alphonsus.

He was devoted to the sick and aged, and was sought after as confessor by priests, Sisters and the laity.

Father Herman Joseph died April 10, 1952, at the age of 59. He had been diagnosed with cancer only the month before. Father Victor Green, provincial, celebrated the Solemn Mass of Requiem at St. Alphonsus Church. Burial was at Mt. Calvary Cemetery in Wheeling, W.Va.