

July 21, 1884

Bishop John Baptiste Miege, SJ



Bishop Miege was born Sept. 18, 1815 in the village of La Foret, Savoy, France. He entered the Society of Jesus in 1836, and was ordained to the priesthood in Rome on Sept. 12, 1847, by Cardinal Canali.

He was on the faculty of St. Louis University, St. Louis, Mo., when he was appointed Vicar Apostolic of Indian Territory East of the Rocky Mountains on July 23, 1850.

He was consecrated by Archbishop Peter Kenrick on March 25, 1851, at St. Francis Xavier Church in St. Louis.

Bishop Miege established his See at St. Mary's Mission (St. Marys, Kans.) on May 31, 1851. He reestablished his residence at Leavenworth in 1855.

His ecclesiastical territory was redefined as the state of Kansas and renamed the Vicariate Apostolic of Kansas in 1868. That same year the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Leavenworth was dedicated.

He received a coadjutor in the person of Bishop Louis Mary Fink, OSB, in 1871. After handing over the administration to his coadjutor, Bishop Miege spent two and a half years collecting money to pay the debt on his Cathedral. He was released from his duties on Dec. 11, 1874.

Bishop Miege left Leavenworth and resumed his station as an ordinary member of the Jesuit Province of Missouri. He served as spiritual director of the Jesuit seminary at Woodstock, Md., from 1874 to 1877. He later founded the University of Detroit and served as its first president (1877-80). He returned to Woodstock where he died on July 21, 1884. Burial was at Woodstock College.

Bishop Fink celebrated a Pontifical High Mass of Requiem at the Cathedral in Leavenworth.