

May 17, 1952

Father Michael Neff, OFM Cap



Father Michael was born April 6, 1876 in the little village of North Oakland, Pa. He was given the name Wendelin at Baptism. He was clothed as a novice in the Capuchin Order in 1894. He was ordained June 19, 1900.

Father Michael was appointed pastor at St. Anthony's, Schoenchen. He taught one year (1903) at St. Fidelis Seminary in Herman, Pa., then returned to Kansas.

He built the rectory at Schoenchen and the church in Ellis (St. Mary's). He was engaged in parish work in Antonino, Vincent, Hays and Herndon.

Father Michael was an assistant at Marienthal from 1913 to 1914. He traveled by train to serve the mission stations in Ness County. St. Aloysius, Ransom, started constructing a cement block church during this time.

In 1930 he was transferred to the East. There he served in Pittsburgh and then Cumberland, Md., where he had charge, at different times, of the missions at Grantsville and Avilton, Bean's Cove and Cresaptown. He also had charge for some time, of the community farm at Alverno.

He spent his last 12 years in Ellis County, Kansas. He was an assistant at Ellis and then Hays before he was relieved of the responsibilities of parish work due to his poor health. He continued to reside at St. Joseph Friary in Hays and began making rosaries. He delighted in answering the door where he had the opportunity to renew old acquaintances. He heard many a confession in the parlor.

On May 17, 1952, Father Michael dropped dead at his place in community room at the friary. Father Alfred Carney celebrated the funeral Mass at St. Joseph Church. Burial was in the friar's plot at St. Joseph Cemetery.