

**March 28, 1900**

**Father Paul Ponziglione, SJ**



Father Ponziglione was born of noble descent Feb. 11, 1818, in the city of Cherasco, Piedmont, Italy. He was baptized Count Paul M. Ferrero Ponziglione di Borgo d'Ales. He entered the novitiate of the Society of Jesus at Cheiri, near Turin in 1839. He was ordained in Rome by Cardinal Constantine Patrizi of the Roman Curia, on March 25, 1848. He traveled to the U.S., and was engaged in missionary work in Missouri and Kentucky.

In 1851, when his friend Bishop Miede traveled to Kansas to begin his episcopate as the vicar apostolic of Indian Territory East of the Rocky Mountains, Father Ponziglione accompanied him to begin his own work among the Indians at Osage Mission (now St. Paul).

The scope and span of his work extended throughout 30 counties in Kansas. He also traversed the wild regions of the Indian Territory (now Oklahoma), and established missionary stations at the Indian agencies and military posts as far south as Fort Sill, near the Texas line. His circuit included stations at Fort Dodge and Fort Larned.

Over his 40 years at Osage Mission, Father Ponziglione established 108 missions, 87 of which were in southern Kansas and 21 in the Indian Territory.

On Feb. 27, 1889, he celebrated his golden jubilee as a Jesuit at Osage Mission. In the Spring of that year he was called to the Crow Reservation in Montana, and in 1891 became historian of St. Ignatius College, Chicago. He died March 28, 1900, at the age of 82. Burial was at Calvary Cemetery in Chicago.

(Connelley, William E., *A Standard History of Kansas and Kansans*. Chicago: Lewis Publishing Company, 1918)