

July 22, 1957

Father Ildephonse Roeckl, OFM Cap.



Father Ildephonse (John) was born in Trautenberg, Bavaria, July 27, 1888. After entering St. Vincent's Abbey at Latrobe, Pa., in 1905, he surprisingly found himself invested as a Benedictine brother with the name Benedict. His intention was rather to study for the priesthood, but he was told that the seminary was overcrowded. A professor in Latrobe applied for his admission at the Capuchin seminary at Herman, Pa., but he was told it also was full and he would have to wait for a vacancy. In 1906, after spending nine months in the Benedictine novitiate, he was accepted at St. Fidelis Seminary at Herman. He made solemn vows in 1916 and was ordained Sept. 22, 1918, by Bishop Owen Corrigan, auxiliary of Baltimore, in St. Mary Seminary Chapel, Emmitsburg, Md.

His assignments took him to Maryland, West Virginia, Pennsylvania and Kansas. From 1923 to 1926 he was at Marienthal in charge of the missions of St. Joseph, Scott City, and St. Anthony at St. Theresa. He was superior and pastor at Sacred Heart, Ness City, from 1931 to 1932.

His remaining Kansas assignments were at St. Mary, Ellis (1933-36); St. Fidelis, Victoria (1936-39); Sacred Heart, Frontenac (1939-47); Sacred Heart, Atwood, (1947-48); and St. Francis Xavier, Munjor (1948-51).

Father Ildephonse died July 22, 1957, at the age of 69. Father Aurelius Nickel, pastor of Sacred Heart, Charleston, W. Va., celebrated the funeral Mass. Bishop Thomas McDonnell, coadjutor of Wheeling, was in attendance. A second funeral was celebrated in Our Lady of the Angels Chapel at Brookline, Pa., by Father Claude Vogel, provincial. Burial was in St. Augustine Cemetery, Pittsburgh, Pa.