

**December 29, 1979**

**Father Camillus Schmitt, OFM, Cap.**



Father Camillus was born June 12, 1899, at Wheeling, W. Va. He was ordained June 14, 1924, at St. Alphonsus Church in Wheeling by the Most Rev. John Swint, bishop of Wheeling.

Following his ordination, he earned a master's degree in education at Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. He then became an instructor in Kansas at the old Hays Catholic College and later led a fund drive to raise money to complete the construction of St. Joseph College, now occupied by Thomas More Prep - Marian.

Father Camillus served as pastor at Bird City and St. Francis, and in 1931 began a 15-year period outside Kansas where he was chaplain of St. Francis Hospital, Pittsburgh, Pa., and secretary for the Capuchin Province.

He served 13 years as a member of the Capuchin home mission band based first in Pittsburgh and later in St. Louis.

He returned to Kansas in 1946, where he remained except for two years when he was a rural pastor in Grantsville and Avilton, Md., and another two years in the downtown ministry of the confessional in St. Louis.

His Kansas assignments included: Sacred Heart, Emmeram (1946-48); Sacred Heart, Atwood (1948-50); St. John, Bazine and St. Ignatius, Nonchalanta (1952-53); Our Lady Help of Christians, Antonino (1953-56); St. Francis, Munjor (1956-63); and St. John and SS. Cyril and Methodius, near Atwood (1963-67). He also served as chaplain at St. Anthony Hospital, Hays (1967-71).

Father Camillus died Dec. 29, 1979, at St. Anthony Hospital, Hays. He was 80. The funeral was at St. Fidelis Church, Victoria, with burial in the parish cemetery.