

January 3, 1949

Father Norbert Staab



Father Staab was born July 21, 1888 at Catharine. He took theology at SS. Peter and Paul Seminary in Cumberland, Md. He was ordained a Capuchin priest May 28, 1914, at the old Cathedral in Baltimore.

After teaching for six years at Hays Catholic College (1914-20), Father Staab petitioned to be released from his religious vows to devote his life to pastoral labors. He was accepted by Bishop Schwertner for the Wichita diocese.

His first appointment was to St. Joseph, Yates Center, where he served as pastor from 1920 to 1926. He was transferred to St. Nicholas, Kinsley, where he then served for 14 years (1926-1940). He was appointed pastor of Sacred Heart, Larned on June 30, 1940.

Father Staab died in his sleep on Jan. 3, 1949, as he was about to undertake the building of a new parish school and church enlargement. He suffered a heart attack and was found by his sister and housekeeper Felicitas Staab.

Bishop Mark Carroll was in attendance at the funeral at Sacred Heart Church in Larned. The celebrant was Father Francis Staab, brother of the deceased and pastor of Sacred Heart Church, Topeka. A public address system was set up for the overflow crowd in the parish school hall. Father Staab was buried at St. Catherine's Cemetery at Catharine.

"Father Staab was a hard worker and a kind soul. He was especially kind to the unfortunate. As chaplain at the Larned Mental hospital, Father Staab proved himself a real father to the unfortunate inmates there. He said Mass regularly at the institution for 'his befogged children,' as he was wont to call them." (AR Jan. 14, 1949)