

December 1, 1952

Rev. Gilbert Stickelmaier, OFM Cap



Father Gilbert was born June 1, 1889, in Peoria, Ill. He entered the Capuchin Order in 1910. He made his solemn profession on July 18, 1914, and was ordained May 31, 1917.

He served at St. Joseph's College in Hays and as an assistant at Cumberland, Md., before entering military service as a chaplain during World War I.

Father Gilbert served as a hospital chaplain in Kerhuon, France. Over 60,000 patients passed through the base hospital during his nine months in the service. He also attended the German prisoners at Ft. Bouguen in France.

In 1920, he became professor at St. Joseph's College, Hays, and assistant at St. John the Baptist, Hyacinth.

Father Gilbert was assigned to Marienthal with charge of St. Aloysius, Ransom (1922-24). In actuality he was a resident pastor at Ransom. His last assignment in Kansas was as superior and pastor at St. Mary's, Ellis (1924-26)

He served in Pittsburgh, Pa., and then Washington, D.C., before beginning 20 years of missionary service in Puerto Rico (1932-52). He built schools at Rio Piedras and Uruado and started a new church at Santa Teresita.

Father Gilbert suffered from stomach cancer and was about to undergo an operation when he died on Dec. 1, 1952, at Queen of Angels Hospital, Los Angeles, Calif.

The Very Rev. Ignatius Weisbruch, ex-provincial and uncle of the deceased, celebrated the funeral Mass at St. Augustine's, Pittsburgh, Pa. Burial was in the parish cemetery.

Three of his sisters entered the School Sisters of St. Francis: Sister Beatina, Sister Hortensia and Sister Loyola.