

June 10, 1927

Father Adolph Wibbert



Father Wibbert was born Oct. 17, 1844, at Stadtlohn in Westphalia, Germany. He had been married, but decided to study for the priesthood after the death of his wife.

He took his theology studies in Montreal, Canada. He was ordained for the Vicariate Apostolic of Kansas, on April 16, 1876, at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Leavenworth by Bishop Louis Mary Fink, OSB.

He served as pastor of Sacred Heart, Salina, for five years (1876-82). This assignment initially included care for the missions at Brookville, Ellsworth, Fort Hays, Hays City, Liebenthal, Herzog, Stadter, Ellis, Bunker Hill, Russell, Fort Wallace and Bosland. His territory extended 200 miles along the Union Pacific Railroad. At the time, this area had only two churches. He celebrated Mass in dugouts, public school houses or on the open prairie.

Father Wibbert was the first priest to minister to the Volga-German colony at Liebenthal. After five years in Kansas, he transferred to the Archdiocese of Milwaukee for reasons of health. He automatically transferred to the Diocese of Green Bay in 1905 with the redistricting of the dioceses in Wisconsin.

In Wisconsin his pastorates included: St. Mary's, Dotyville; St. Mary's, Platteville; and St. Vincent de Paul, Oshkosh. He was the founder of *Columbia*, the first German Catholic newspaper in Wisconsin.

Father Wibbert retired from pastoral work in 1913 and resided in Fond du Lac, Wisc. He later resided at St. Agnes Hospital there. He died on June 10, 1927, at the age of 82. He is buried in Calvary Cemetery at Fond du Lac.