

March 8, 1914

Father Ferdinand Wolf, OSB



Father Ferdinand was born Jan. 29, 1834, in Schmiedheim, Prussia. He moved to Wisconsin with his parents in 1851 and entered the Benedictine novitiate at St. Vincent's Abbey, Latrobe, Pa., in 1852. He made his solemn profession July 11, 1858, and was ordained Dec. 22, 1860. He did parish work in Pennsylvania until 1878.

It was in 1878 that Bishop Fink, asked Abbot Innocent Wolf of St. Benedict's Abbey, Atchison, to supply a priest for a big German settlement taking up land west of Great Bend. Abbot Wolf had no priest to send, so he turned to Archabbot Boniface Wimmer at St. Vincent's Abbey. Since Abbot Innocent's older brother, Father Ferdinand, wished to go West, he was sent to Kansas to care for the new colony that became the community of Windthorst. (Kansas Monks, p. 184)

Father Ferdinand attended the Catholics along the Santa Fe Railroad from Great Bend west to the Colorado state line. He made periodic visits to Camp Supply in the Indian Territory and Fort Elliot in Texas. His parish was 200 miles long by 130 miles wide.

He was recalled to the Abbey at Atchison in 1881 and served in several assignments in northeast Kansas. In 1893 he became chaplain at St. Gertrude's Convent, near Ridgely, Md. He continued in this post for nearly 22 years until his death on March 8, 1914, at the age of 80.

Father Albert Lang, OSB, was the celebrant of the Solemn Requiem Mass. Bishop John Monaghan of Wilmington gave the absolution and delivered the eulogy. The body of Father Ferdinand was taken to Atchison for a second funeral. Burial was in the abbey cemetery.