

July 23, 1947

Father Placid Wolker, OFM Cap



Father Placid (Peter) was born May 9, 1884, at Vilsbiburg in Bavaria. He was invested in the Capuchin Order at Herman, Pa., in 1903 and made solemn vows in 1907. He was ordained June 21, 1910.

Some months before his ordination he was sent to study Bohemian under the tutorship of a Benedictine at a Bohemian parish in Chicago. Bishop John Cunningham of Concordia had recently offered the Capuchins the Bohemian missions in northwest Kansas. Immediately after his ordination, Father Placid was assigned to these missions with residence in Herndon (1910-22 and 1923-28).

In the Dodge City diocese, he was at Sacred Heart Friary, Ness City and assumed the pastorate of St. Aloysius, Ransom (1933-36). There he organized a drama club. He was then Superior and pastor at Ness City (1936-42).

His other assignments in the Concordia diocese were at St. Fidelis, Victoria; Catharine where he served the missions of St. Severin, Severin and St. John the Baptist, Hyacinth; St. Mary's, Ellis; and St. Francis, Munjor. The last three years of his life, he was stationed at Victoria and had charge of St. Ann's, Walker.

He spent his entire priestly life in assignments in Kansas. Throughout these years he was frequently in demand in the Bohemian missions where he went to hear the Easter confessions of the older Bohemians who wanted to confess in their native tongue.

Father Placid died suddenly July 23, 1947, in Ontario, Ore., at the bus station after visiting area Bohemians. He was 63. Father Raphael Engel celebrated the funeral at St. Fidelis Church, Victoria. Burial was in the parish cemetery.