

May 5, 1953

Father Cyril Zeller, OFM Cap



Father Cyril was born in Donauwörth, Germany, Oct. 6, 1882. He was given the name John at baptism. He entered the Capuchin novitiate at St. Fidelis Seminary, Herman, Pa., and made simple profession in 1901. He was ordained June 20, 1906, by James Cardinal Gibbons in the Cathedral at Baltimore, Md. His brother, Father Uric, was master of ceremonies at his first Mass in SS. Peter and Paul Church, Cumberland, Md.

His Kansas assignments included teaching at St. Joseph College, Hays, (1909-17 and 1922-23) which, for a time, included the pastorate at St. John the Baptist, Hyacinth (1911-13). He was stationed at the monastery in Marienthal and had charge of St. Aloysius, Ransom, and the Catholic Mission House at Healy from 1917 to 1922. He was appointed superior and pastor at Sacred Heart, Ness City, in 1925 and continued in this post until 1931. His last assignment in the state was brief as an assistant at St. Catherine, Catharine (1946-47).

In addition to his Kansas assignments, he served in Wheeling, W. Va.; Pittsburgh, Pa.; Herman, Pa.; and Westerville, Ohio.

Father Cyril's bad health necessitated his transfer to St. Augustine Monastery in Pittsburgh, Pa., in 1951. When his health became worse, he was taken to the infirmary at Herman. He died May 5, 1953, at the age of 70. Death was due to heart condition, aggravated by chronic diabetes and other infirmities of old age.

Father Ulic Zeller celebrated the funeral Mass at St. Mary's Church in Herman, Pa. Burial was in the parish cemetery.