

# Indian to Be Ordained Wednesday At St. Ignatius Mission Mass

Called Ksistaki-poka in the tongue of his Blackfeet tribe, Rev. John Joseph Brown is to have the distinction of being the first northwest Indian and the third United States Indian ordained a Catholic priest, it is stated, at St. Ignatius mission at 10:30 a. m. Wednesday. He is to celebrate his first solemn high mass among the people of his own tribe at St. Anne's church at Heart Butte, in Pondera county, at 10 a. m. June 20.

Most Rev. Joseph M. Gilmore, bishop of Helena, is to preside at the ordination ceremony. Church officials said this will mark a century of missionary labors which began after Iroquois Indians first told the Flatheads about the religion of the "black robes."

Thirty-two years ago, in 1916, Father Brown's parents left the Blackfeet reservation for Philadelphia where he was born September 8 of that year, the eldest of 12 children. Subsequently he returned to the reservation for visits on several occasions.

The full-blooded Indian attended a parochial grammar school and West Philadelphia Catholic high school and entered the Society of Jesus at Wernersville, Pa., on August 15, 1935, to begin his studies for the priesthood. After pronouncing his vows at the close of a two-year novitiate period, he began literary studies. He studied philosophy and history for a year at Inisfada, near Manhasset, Long Island, N. Y., and for two years at West Baden college at West Baden, Ind. In 1941 he received a degree from Loyola university in Chicago and then spent another year doing special work in history.

Father Brown spent the next three years as teacher and prefect of the boys at Sacred Heart mission among the Coeur d'Alene Indians at DeSmet, Idaho. Since 1945 he has been occupied with theological studies at Alma college, Alma, Cal. Following ordination he will return there for a fourth year of theology. This will be succeeded by a year of ascetical theology at the conclusion of which he will be ready for assignment.

Assisting Father Brown at his first mass will be: Rev. Egon E. Mallman, pastor of St. Anne's church sub-deacon; Rev. Joseph F. MacFarland, managing editor of "Jesuit Missions," deacon; Rev. Bernard A. Cullen, director of the Marquette league, assistant priest. The sermon will be preached by Father Brown's former superior at Sacred Heart mission at DeSmet, Rev. Cornelius E. Byrne.