

Rev. P. C. Vatter, Pastor Here for 26 Years, Dies

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the Immaculate Conception church. The office of the dead will be recited beginning at 10 o'clock Friday morning. The pontifical mass of requiem will begin at 10:30 o'clock. Burial in St. Mary's cemetery is planned.

To Lie in State

The body has been taken to the Million funeral home. It will be taken to the church "some time tomorrow," Father Link said, to lie in state there until Friday morning.

Has Niece And Nephews

Father Vatter is survived by a niece, Mrs. William Weis of Flushing, N. Y.; two nephews, Clement Vatter of Flushing and Norbert Bohner of St. Louis, and other relatives in the vicinity of Flushing.

Parishioners who contacted Joe relatives this morning and not learn whether a brother, William Vatter of Heltersberg, Germany, and a sister, Mrs. Carl Koenig, who was living in Bavaria ten years ago, are still alive.

Mrs. Weis is flying to St. Louis and she and Mr. Bohner are to arrive here tomorrow.

Father Vatter was the eighth of nine children. Two of his sisters became nuns. They and their other brothers and sisters are dead.

Born in Bavaria

Peter Clement Vatter was born at Heltersberg, in Bavaria, April 16, 1899, on a Tuesday in Holy Week. He told friends that many youths from that community became priests or nuns.

He came to America in 1907, continued his studies at St. Benedict's College at St. Benedict, Ia.; studied philosophy at New Salsboro Abbey at Salsboro, Ark., and completed his theological studies at Kendrick Seminary at St. Louis.

He was ordained at St. Louis June 13, 1918, by Archbishop J. J. Glennon and celebrated his first mass at the Church of St. Louis June 15, 1918, on the Feast of the Holy Trinity.

He served for short periods at churches at Kahoka and Adair and in 1919 became pastor of St. Joseph's church in Chillicothe. In 1923 he became pastor of St. Boniface's church in Brunswick, and a new rectory was built during his stay there. He moved to Moberly in 1924.

He came to Moberly in July, 1924, and completed 26 years at his parish here the first week of last August. His 25th anniversary as pastor of Immaculate Conception church was celebrated in the fall of 1949. Father Vatter celebrated a solemn high mass at the church and was honored at a ceremony that night at the Knights of Columbus hall when he was given a purse subscribed by members of his parish and friends.

Father Vatter's silver jubilee, marking his 25 years in the priesthood, was celebrated here Oct. 15, 1948. The elaborate ceremonies were the first of their kind ever held here.

Archbishop R. A. Gerken of Santa Fe, N. M., an old friend and former schoolmate of Father Vatter, Bishop Leonard and more than 100 members of the clergy, abbots, monsignori, regular and secular priests and religious came here for the celebration.

Father Vatter celebrated his jubilee mass at Municipal Auditorium. It was the only mass ever said in the building.

A "Priestly Priest"

Archbishop Gerken observed in his sermon at the auditorium that Father Vatter "has been a priestly priest, a pastor who has been appeniated because he was a true 'alter Christus' (another Christ), enthusiastic about the welfare of the souls entrusted to him and of the welfare of another Church in general."

Father Link said Father Vatter's last order as he lay dying this morning concerned services at the church this morning.

The priest told his young assistant to say, in his stead, a requiem high mass planned for the late Father Lynch, formerly of Moberly, and to distribute communion to the sisters serving in the Immaculate Conception parish.

Father Link stepped before the altar of the church 20 minutes after Father Vatter died. He made there the first public announcement of the pastor's death then offered the high mass for the repose of Father Vatter's soul.

The mass for Father Lynch will be said later.