

Hold Last Rites Today For Fr. Philip Wagner

RUDOLPH — Last rites were held today for Father Philip Wagner, 76, in St. Philomena's Church here, the parish where he served as pastor for 43 years.

The Most Rev. John P. Treacy, Bishop of La Crosse, was celebrant at the 11 o'clock Solemn Pontifical Mass this Thursday morning (Nov. 5) for Father Wagner who died in St. Michael's Hospital, Stevens Point, Sunday afternoon, Nov. 1, after a lingering illness.

Father John McGinley, pastor of St. Stephen's, Stevens Point, delivered the funeral sermon and the Rt. Rev. Msgr. A. N. Schuh, pastor of St. John's, Marshfield, was assistant priest. Other officers of the Mass included: Father Joseph Kunding, rector of St. Joseph's Cathedral, La Crosse, deacon; Father Stanley Andrzejewski, pastor of Our Lady, Queen of Heaven, Wisconsin Rapids, subdeacon. The Rt. Rev. Msgr. C. W. Gille, pastor of SS. Peter and Paul, Wisconsin Rapids and the Rt. Rev. Msgr. Thomas E. O'Shaughnessy, pastor of Blessed Sacrament, La Crosse, were deacons of honor. Burial took place in the parish All Souls Cemetery.

Father Philip Wagner was born Dec. 23, 1882, at Festina, Iowa, the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Nick Wagner. He is survived by two brothers and two sisters. They are: John Wagner, Watsonville, Calif.; Louis Wagner, Plankinton, S.

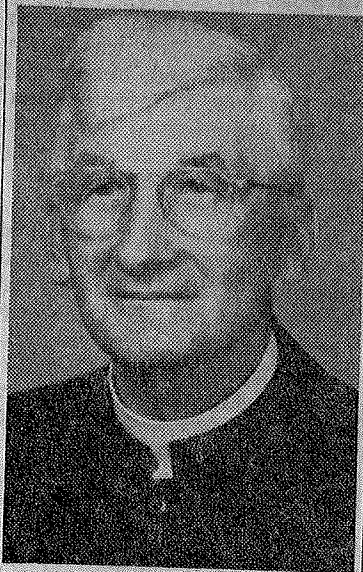
Dak.; Mrs. Regina Etteldorf, Ossian, Iowa; and Mrs. Louisa Klein, Navasota, Tex.

AFTER completing his collegiate and philosophical studies at Campion College, Prairie du Chien, Father Wagner entered Innsbruck Seminary, Innsbruck, Austria, for his theological course. He was ordained there on June 30, 1915.

During his 44 years as a priest Father Wagner had only two appointments. On Oct. 1, 1915, he was appointed assistant to the late Msgr. Pape at St. Joseph's Cathedral. Then, in 1917, he was named pastor of St. Philomena's, Rudolph, where he served up till the time of his death.

Father Wagner was known throughout the middle West as the "grotto priest," having built a grotto on the parish

grounds. He also built the parish school in 1920 and the new church-rectory in 1950.



Fr. Philip Wagner