FATHER HAAS'S LABORS IN WISCONSIN

The Introducer of the Capuchin Order in the United States.

From The Milwaukee Journal, June 22.

The Right Rev. Francis Haas, who introduced the Capuchin Order into the United States, died at St. Agnes's Convent, Fond du Lac, Wis., last evening, at 5:45 o'clock. The Capuchin Fathers of Milwaukee received the sad news this morning.

Father Haas was born in Metzerlen, Switzerland, Nov. 25, 1826. He came to the United States Sept. 2, 1856, and arrived ten days later in Milwaukee, where he was kindly received by the Most Rev. Archbishop Henni and given charge of St. Nicholas, now known as Mount Calvary, twelve miles east of Fond du Lac, to start a monastery for the Capuchin Order, which had not been represented in the United States until that time.

Father Haas received the habit Dec. 2, 1857, at the hands of the Rev. Anthony Gachet of the Swiss Province of Capuchins, who had been sent to this country for the purpose, as Father Haas had been only a secular priest until then, having been ordained Dec. 28, 1851. Father Haas had always been at the head of the Order of Capuchins in this country until it was canonically raised to the dignity of an independent province, Aug. 7, 1882, he having been successively guardian, commissary, custos, and provincial.

He was the founder of St. Lawrence College at Mount Calvary, Fond du Lac County, in 1861. In 1866 he sent the Rev. Father Bonaventure Frey to found a house in New-York, and the same year he bought property in this city to erect a convent, and subsequently erected St. Francis's Church and Convent, corner of Fourth and Harmon Streets, in this city. In June, 1877, he founded a house in Appleton. In 1878, by a unanimous vote of the Definitors General of the order, he was appointed Definitor General by Pope Leo XIII. This necessitated his residence at Rome, Italy.

About two years ago he returned to this country on a visit, was taken sick, and had been ailing ever since. He tendered his resignation as Definitor General, but it was not accepted. Permission, however, was granted him to remain in this country until he should recover his health. He remained at St. Agnes's Convent, Fond du Lac, as spiritual director of that community. After Easter he grew worse, and had been so low that he was several times prepared for death.

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