



Historical Highlights

Fr. Dominic O'Connor O.F.M. Cap.

+October 17, 1935

Dominic O'Connor was born in Cork, Ireland February 13, 1883. He served as a Chaplain to an Irish division in the British army during World War I. He took an active part in the political turmoil leading to the founding of the Irish Republic. Because of these activities he had to leave Ireland in 1922 coming to the U.S. and arriving in the Diocese of Baker. He served in Hermiston and Bend, the two parishes assigned to the Capuchins. Everywhere he went he brought with him and implanted the Franciscan presence as he traveled and preached with his Capuchin brothers in Eastern Oregon. Dominic made one great and outstanding contribution to the Diocese of Baker in his book "Brief History of the Diocese of Baker" the result of painstaking research and labor. In September 1934, he was seriously injured in an automobile accident in Portland, from which he never fully recovered. After months of suffering, he died in Bend on October 17, 1935. At the funeral eulogy Bishop McGrath said; "Time will not permit us to speak of his countless ... activities. As a religious priest he lived up to the noblest ideals of his calling. He was always a gentleman. God rest you Father Dominic, your passing has made us poorer, but we grudge you not your rest." He was buried in Bend. It was always the wish of the people of Ireland that the mortal remains of both Albert Bibby and Dominic O'Connor be returned to Ireland. This happened in June 1958, when both he and Albert were finally laid to rest with the Capuchin Brothers at Rochestown, Cork, Ireland. The Bishop of Cork offered the Mass and the Capuchin Friars were present along with the President of Ireland, heads of religious orders and government ministers.

In gratitude to our brother, Dominic, and the friars of the Mother Province of St. Patrick, please pray one *Glory be to the Father*.

Adapted from: (Fr. Michael James O'Shea, OFM Cap: Necrology)