

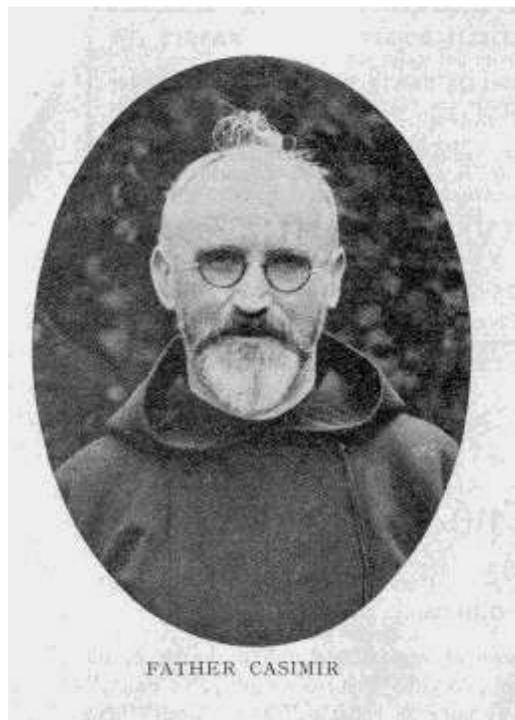


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## Historical Highlights

**Fr. Casimir Butler O.F.M. Cap.**

**+January 18, 1958**



**Casimir Butler** is a real pioneer friar; during his lifetime he ministered on three Continents, Europe, America, and Africa. In 1910 he left Ireland to help out in Hermiston, Oregon, a small desolate railroad settlement. The task awaiting him was daunting; in the words of Thomas Dowling; 'whoever is appointed to Hermiston must be prepared for a lonely, self-sacrificing life-awaiting developments.' The Servite Fathers, who had arrived in Hermiston early in 1909, left the Diocese in January 1910. Casimir began work and soon he had built a small church with a second floor dwelling reached by an outside ladder. In 1912 with the help of a new assistant Malachy Hynes a new location was secured with the help and generosity of the Maxwell Land and Irrigation Company. With the help of Brendan O'Callaghan, who replaced Malachy Hynes in 1913 and Seraphin O'Reilly who arrived the following year, a new church was built and consecrated, October 24, 1915. Before he left Hermiston Casimir built three mission churches, including the Church of St. Patrick at Umatilla. On July 13, 1919 he presided at the organizational meeting for Sacred Heart Parish in Lincoln, Nebraska. He was the temporary resident priest until Ed Walsh was appointed pastor a month later and continued to assist him for a short while. He also spent some time at Old Mission Santa Ines where he and Stephen Murtagh took charge upon the death of Albert Bibby (February 14, 1925). A few years later, Casimir embarked on a new adventure, going to Zambia (then Northern Rhodesia) where the Irish Province had established a new mission. He died in 1958 and is buried in Ireland.

In gratitude to our brother, Casimir, 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)*