

Very Rev. Francis Wilkinson Black

18th State Chaplain of Oregon 1943-45



Francis Wilkinson Black was born June 17, 1888 in Portland, OR to John and Elizabeth Wilkinson Black.

He attended Portland schools graduating from the former Columbia University in 1908. Francis took his theology at St. Patrick's Seminary in Menlo Park, CA and was ordained at St. Mary's cathedral in Portland, OR in 1913.



In 1923, Rev. Black became ill with tuberculosis and moved to Medford intending to spend his last days peacefully. There was small hope for his recovery. He was hospitalized in an isolated wing of the local hospital. Two years later he made a complete recovery.

June 8, 1908 Graduation Columbia University

In 1925 he was made pastor of the local church in Medford, OR and his parish consisted of 50 families. In 1929, under his direction the parish built the present church at Sacred Heart.

Rev. Black served as assistant pastor under Father Daly at the Immaculate Heart Church in Portland, OR. He was later assistant pastor at St. Jame's in McMinnville, OR; the Church of the Blessed Sacrament in Portland, OR; Church of the Nativity in Medford, OR. In 1944 he returned to Immaculate Heart for two years as pastor, during an important construction period. In 1946 he went to Sacred Heart in Medford, OR.

Rev. Black's charm of personality, his cheer and humor and known charity won him hundreds of friends and converts throughout his long pastorate.

Rev. Black was the Oregon Knights of Columbus State Chaplin 1943-45.

Rev. Francis Wilkinson Black died November 20, 1947 in Medford, OR of a stroke. He is buried at the Mount Calvary Cemetery in Portland, OR.

"Due to the present war program and my close proximity to Camp White, near Medford, much of my time is taken up in caring for the spiritual needs of those men in the service station there. There are difficulties I encountered in traveling under the present restrictions. I strongly stress the necessity of unified activities on the part of the Knights of Columbus during this present emergency and I urge Catholic solidarity throughout the State of Oregon." Rev. Francis W. Black, State Convention, May 22, 1943, Salem, OR

