

# FATHER W.L. HART.CHURCH BUILDER, WAR HERO DIES

9 January 1953

Rev. Father William I. Hart, 87, noted War-time KC Chaplain and builder of All Saints Lakeville Catholic Church, died at St Joseph Hospital, St Paul at 7:30 Tuesday morning after several years illness with diabetes.

Funeral Services will be held at 9:30 am Friday in the O'Halloran and Murphy funeral home, St Paul and later in the cathedral, where Divine Office of the Dead will be chanted at 10:00 am and a requiem Mass will be read at 10:30 with interment in the Resurrection cemetery.

Father Hart was born in Bermuda, where his father a sergeant in the British army, was stationed for several years. He went to Toronto as a boy and was there educated to the priesthood. After a few years he founded St George School for Boys the idea of which was followed in later years by Father Flannigan at Boys Town near Omaha, Nebraska. Five years ago I accompanied Father Hart to Toronto and visited with him his boyhood haunts and the school that he founded and there met 65 boys of the school and saw a fine painting of Father Hart, its founder in the reception room. He was always proud of this achievement and also the fact that he was one of the first "Boy Scouts of America."

Father Hart came to his country when Archbishop John Ireland, presided over the Archdiocese of St Paul and was given charges at Hutchinson, St Marks in St Paul, Lakeville LeSeurer, Savage and Anoka. To me used today he was a roving missionary.

My first acquaintance with the good Father came as he had just finished building the fine new church in Lakeville. They were having a big dinner celebrating the occasion of the completion of the church and Mrs Schilling and I were invited to participate, by Mr and Mrs Frank Lammers. We were sitting enjoying the bountiful repast put on the ladies of the Church when Father Hart came in back of us and touching Mrs Schilling on the back

said:"The man you are with this evening should be in Stillwater penitentiary"

She was surprised as we had never met the good padre she asked him why and he came back with this one:"He is charging the Irish about \$1.50 a bushel for potatoes."

(There was a poor crop of that Irish staff of life about Lakeville that year and I had some 900 bushels and sold some there.)

From that day Father Hart and I became warm friends and this was by the "gun route". Father was a crack shot with pistol, gun and rifle and as that was one of my deluxe amusements we visited back and forth up to the time of his demise. When Father, incapacitated by the ravages of disease, was taken to St Joseph Hospital he presented me with his entire collection of fire arms of every sort and also other trophies that he had gathered in his most interesting life. Among these is a double barrel pistol that belonged to Louis XV, King of France. On the barrel is engraved "A Small Servant of the King."

Father Hart was a most patriotic citizen and when World War I came upon us he begged to be enlisted as a Chaplain but as he was then 55 years of age the government turned him down. Then he appealed to the Knights of Columbus to send him to the front and he was accepted through this organization and he served with great distinction not only as Chaplain but also as soldier for at the Battle of the Marne when soldiers were falling like flies and he saw the officers of one company all killed he rushed into the fray and appointed under officer to take command.

**W.F. SCHILLING**