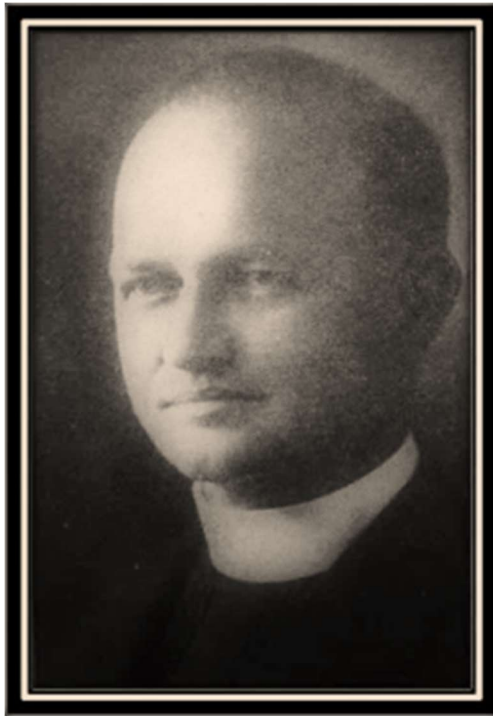




**REVEREND
HENRY W. NIX**



February 26, 1887 – November 8, 1943

Ordained May 29, 1926

FATHER HENRY WILLIAM NIX

Father Nix was born February 26, 1887, in Clay County, Illinois, the youngest son of Celestine Silas and Regina Cecilia (Desch) Nix. Named after his paternal Great-Grandfather and Uncle Rev. Heinrich (Henry) Nix who was a Roman Catholic Priest in Germany.



Father Nix's maternal grandparents Adam and Maria Cecelia (Hemrich) Desch. donated the land and were instrumental in the founding of St. Ignatius/St. John's the first Catholic Church in the Wendelin area.

Father Nix was baptized in 1887 at St. John's Church by Rev. Henry Ader. Father Nix grew up in St. John/Holy Cross Parish along with his siblings Dorothy (Deimel), Frank, Francis (Amend), Adam, Cecelia (Sister Mary Marca), and Josephine (Sister Mary Celeste). Following his mother's death in 1898 his father remarried Louise (Deimel) and they had two children, Johanna (Hinterseher) and Colestine. He would make his First Communion on June 3, 1900, and received the Sacrament of Confirmation on September 24, 1901, conferred by Bishop John Janssen at Holy Cross.

Father Nix studied at Quincy College (Quincy University) in Quincy, Illinois, and attended the seminary at St. John's Home Missions Seminary in Little Rock, Arkansas. Rev. Henry W. Nix was ordained into the Holy Priesthood on May 29, 1926, by Most Rev. John Baptist Morris, Bishop of Little Rock at St. Andrew's Cathedral in Little Rock, Arkansas.

Father Nix served as a Diocesan Priest for the Diocese of Little Rock. Following ordination, he served as an assistant at St. Roman's Mission House in Jonesboro, Arkansas. In 1927 he was appointed pastor of the Perry County missions, including St. Elizabeth in Oppelo, St. Boniface in New Dixie, and St. Francis of Assisi in Ledwidge. In 1931, he was appointed Pastor of St. John the Baptist Church in Engelberg. In 1934, for a year he was appointed to St. Raphael's Orphanage near Pine Bluff before returning to St. John's in Engelberg.

At Engelberg, Father Nix oversaw the construction of a new rectory and donated the more spacious framed rectory built-in 1928 to the Olivetan Benedictine Sisters for use as a home while they educated the youth of the parish. The St. John's parish flourished because of Father Nix's exemplary zeal in looking after the welfare of the parish.

Following a prolonged illness, Father Nix passed away on November 8, 1943, in Jonesboro, Arkansas, and was buried in the Holy Cross Catholic Cemetery in Jonesboro, Arkansas.