

Bishop Martin Marty

September 19th is the anniversary of the death of Bishop Martin Marty. Aloys Marty was born in the town of Schwyz, Canton Schwyz, Switzerland, on January 13, 1834. He began his higher studies in Fribourg with the Jesuits. As a student he learned of the work of the Jesuit priest, Father Pierre De Smet, promoter of the Jesuit missions in the Rocky Mountains of North America. Father De Smet's missionary work aroused in the young Marty a desire to work among the Indians.

In 1848, after the expulsion of the Jesuits in Europe, Aloys Marty continued his course of studies with the Benedictines at Einsiedeln. He professed his vows as a monk of the Abbey of Maria Einsiedeln on May 20, 1855, receiving the name Martin. He was ordained to the priesthood on September 14, 1856.

After ordination, he was first assigned as a teacher in the Gymnasium at Einsiedeln. Later, he was transferred to teaching moral theology. In September of 1860, he was sent to the United States to assist at the newly founded monastery of St. Meinrad in Indiana. In 1865 he was appointed prior of St. Meinrad.

When the foundation was raised to the status of an abbey on September 30, 1870, Pope Pius IX appointed Father Martin Marty the first abbot. It was during Abbot Martin's abbacy that our monastery was founded by St. Meinrad Abbey on March 15, 1878.

On August 12, 1879, Abbot Martin Marty was appointed Vicar Apostolic of the Dakota Territory and was consecrated bishop on February 1, 1880. He was then appointed Bishop of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, on November 15, 1889. He was transferred to the bishopric of St. Cloud, Minnesota, on January 21, 1895, where he served until his death on Saturday, September 19, 1896.

At the time of his death, Bishop Martin Marty was 62 years old and in the 41st year of his monastic profession, the 40th of his priesthood. He had been abbot of St. Meinrad for almost 10 years and a bishop for 16 years. He is buried in Calvary Cemetery, St. Cloud, Minnesota.

