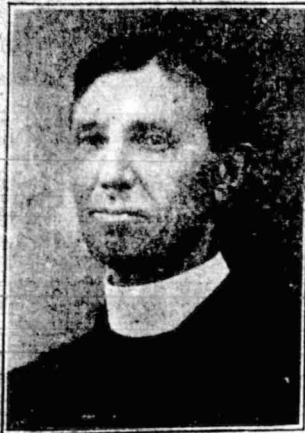


# Who's Who In Wisconsin Rapids

The Who's Who column will be run each Saturday in the Wisconsin Rapids Daily Tribune. It will include a brief sketch of the life of citizens who have helped make history for Wisconsin Rapids.

## Rev. William Reding



REV. WILLIAM REDING

William Reding, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Reding, was born in La-Rochette, Luxemburg, February 19, 1867. His parents emigrated in the summer of the same year, and settled on a farm twenty miles southeast of St. Paul. When he reached the school age, he attended both the

parochial and country schools, and was graduated in June 1881. He entered St. John's University near St. Cloud, Minn., the same fall, where he registered as a commercial student and also taking the Latin course. He graduated from the University in the summer of 1886.

He next attended Campion College at Prairie du Chien, Wis., where he studied two years, afterward registering as a pupil at St. Francis Seminary, where on June 23, 1893 he was ordained a Catholic priest.

### First Church at Eau Galle

His first charge was at Eau Galle, Dunn county, Wis., with Plum City and Farm Hill as missions. He remained in Eau Galle for ten years, and during his service there, a fine edifice and parsonage were built, and many members added to his congregation.

From Eau Galle, he was transferred to Colby, Wis., with Abbotsford as a mission, where he preached the gospel for four years, during his residence in Colby, churches were erected in that city and at the Abbotsford mission.

### Came here in 1907

He was transferred again on July 25, 1907, this time to Wisconsin Ra-

pids where he serves a congregation of two thousand members. Since his coming to this city, he has been instrumental in bringing about many improvements to the church property, including an addition to the parochial school, whose efficient teachers are the Sisters of Charity of Notre Dame. This school is acknowledged as one of the best in Wisconsin Rapids, and has an enrollment of 365 pupils.

Father Reding has visited every state in the union with the exception of Florida and South Dakota. In the year 1914, Father Reding in company with the late Rt. Rev. James Schwelach, Bishop of the La Crosse diocese, paid a visit to Italy and other foreign countries. While in Rome, they were given an audience by the late Pope Pious the Tenth. He also visited his old home in Luxemburg.

### Visits Europe

Just previous to his leaving for his trip abroad he was offered a purse of one thousand dollars by the members of his congregation, as a token of their esteem and appreciation of his services, which he refused. On his return home, however, he was met at the station by a committee who came to greet him in a new five passenger Overland touring car, which was presented to him later in the evening, for his use and convenience. He was also given an ovation in the way of a public reception on the church lawn, where he was greeted by a large majority of the residents of the city.

Three years ago, Father Reding's silver jubilee was celebrated with special church services in the morning. A six o'clock dinner was served at his home in the evening, to the nineteen visiting priests who assisted in the celebration. Following the dinner a sacred concert was given by the members of the church choir. His old car was also exchanged for a new Buick 6, which was presented to him and which he still uses.

### Active During War

Father Reding is one hundred per-

cent American, and during the late war, untiring in his efforts to do all in his power to aid in every way. He was and still is, chairman of the home section of the Red Cross. He was a four minute man, and also made speeches throughout the country, in behalf of the liberty bonds and war stamp drives.

He is a fourth degree Knight of Columbus, a member of the Catholic Knights of Wisconsin, and a member of the Catholic Order of Foresters. About four years ago his religious duties becoming too great a strain for him, the late Bishop Schwebach, appointed Rev. H. A. Leuther as his assistant priest. Rev. Leuther assumed his duties January 4, 1917. He has been spending the past three months abroad. He writes Father

### Reding as follows:

"I will set sail August 26, at Plymouth England, abroad the ship Mauretania, bound for God's country, the United States."

Father Reding is a man greatly honored and beloved by the entire community. He stands for the highest ideals of manhood, and by his daily life, practices what he preaches. He is the second oldest pastor in service in Wisconsin Rapids, Rev. C. A. Meilicke of the First Moravian church having come here a few years previous.