

A NECROLOGY OF THE
DIOCESAN PRIESTS
AND DEACONS



CATHOLIC DIOCESE
of SALINA

2024

A Necrology of the Diocesan Priests and Deacons of the Diocese of Salina

Eternal rest grant unto
them, O Lord, and let
perpetual light shine
upon them. May their
souls and the souls of all
the faithful departed,
through the mercy of
God, rest in peace.

Amen

Originally researched and composed by Doug Weller,
former editor of The Register, in 2023

Updated and redesigned by the Diocesan Communications Office in 2024
Biographies and index to be updated at the end of each calendar year.

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JANUARY 2, 1940

Rev. Michael D. Fleming



Rev. Fleming was born Dec. 24, 1875, in County Kerry, Ireland, to David and Mary (Scannell) Fleming. He attended St. Brendan Seminary in Killarney and St. Patrick College in Carlow, Ireland. He was ordained May 24, 1902, in Carlow and adopted by Bishop John Hennessy, apostolic administrator of the Diocese of Concordia.

He was an assistant pastor at St. Paul Parish in Delphos, with missions in Minneapolis and Glasco (1902), and pastor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Goodland, with a mission in Colby (1902-05). He was administrator of Immaculate Conception Parish in Solomon (1906-10), then pastor of St. Columba Parish in Elmo, with a mission in Gypsum (1911-23). He returned to Solomon as pastor in 1923 and served there until his death.

He is buried in the parish cemetery in Solomon.

JANUARY 3, 1996

Msgr. Edward Sander



Msgr. Sander was born June 12, 1912, in Victoria to John and Eva (Braun) Sander. He attended Conception Seminary in Conception, Mo., and Kenrick Seminary in St. Louis and was ordained to the priesthood on May 18, 1940, by Bishop Frank Thill at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Cathedral in Concordia.

He was assistant pastor at St. Francis Xavier Parish in Junction (1940-43) and St. Wenceslaus Parish in Wilson (1943-44). He was pastor of St. Joseph Parish in New Almelo (1944-62), St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Norton (1962-65), St. Mary Parish in Russell, and St. Joseph Parish in Dorrance (1965-70), St. Mary, Queen of the Universe Parish in Salina and St. Patrick Parish in Gypsum (1970-72), and St. Patrick Parish in Lincoln (1972-84). He retired in 1984 to Hays. He was named a monsignor in 1981.

Among his siblings were Benedictine Father Reginald Sanders and Sister Evelyn Sanders, C.S.J. (Note the difference in the spelling of their surnames.).

He is buried in St. Joseph Cemetery in Hays.

JANUARY 4, 1893

Rev. Marshal Joseph Hill



Rev. Hill was born in 1852. He was named the second pastor of St. Michael Parish in Chapman in 1887, the year the Diocese of Concordia was formed. Chapman, however, was among the five counties that remained in the Diocese of Leavenworth until 1897.

According to a history of the Chapman parish, Rev. Hill was not in Chapman many months when he persuaded the people of the need of a rectory. The building was begun in the spring of 1888 and completed in the fall at a cost of \$5,000. The pastor worked hard planting trees in the church yard as well as promoting various fund-raising activities.

His health failed suddenly, and he died at the age of 41. He was buried in St. Patrick Cemetery at Chapman.

JANUARY 4, 1924

Rev. Charles L. Kearful



Rev. Kearful was born in Cumberland, Md., in 1845. He studied at Annapolis Seminary and Mount St. Clemens Seminary in Maryland. He was ordained in March 1872 by Bishop J.J. Hogan for the Diocese of St. Joseph, Mo.

He was pastor in Brunswick, Mo., for three years, then rector of St. Joseph Cathedral and chaplain to the Convent of the Sacred Heart in St. Joseph, Mo., for two years.

His only service in what would be the Diocese of Concordia was as pastor of St. Mary of the Assumption Parish in Clifton and its missions in Clara, Clay Center, Cuba, Kimeo and Greenleaf in 1877 and 1878.

After that, he served in what was then the Diocese of Wichita. He was pastor in Humboldt from 1878 to 1886, Wellington in 1887 and Dodge City from 1888 to 1894, where he served missions in Kinsley, Coolidge, Scott City, Garden City, Ulysses, Lakin, Meade, Jetmore, Waterford, Ingalls, Fellsburg and rural Edwards County. His last Kansas assignment was in 1895 in Hutchinson and Nickerson.

He returned to St. Joseph Diocese, serving in a number of parishes from 1896 until his retirement in 1923.

He is buried in Mount Olivet Cemetery in St. Joseph.

JANUARY 4, 1962

Rev. Henry Cunningham



Rev. Cunningham was born March 21, 1878, near Salina to James and Bridgit (O'Reilly) Cunningham. His uncle, Father John Cunningham, would become bishop of the Diocese of Concordia in 1898.

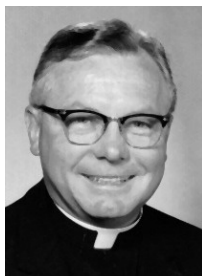
Rev. Cunningham was a businessman in Salina when he accepted the call to the priesthood. He graduated from the University of Santa Clara, then, after becoming ill and hospitalized in Colorado Springs, Colo., studied theology under Jesuit Father J.P. Turdel. He was not expected to recover and wished to die a priest, so Bishop Cunningham traveled to Colorado Springs to ordain his nephew on July 15, 1914.

The new priest sufficiently recovered, however, and was assigned as chaplain of St. John Hospital in Salina, where he served for 16 years while also teaching at Sacred Heart High School. He was pastor at Sacred Heart Parish in Niles (1930-58) until ill health forced his retirement and he became a patient at St. John Hospital. He died four years later and is buried in Mount Calvary Cemetery in Salina.

In addition to being the nephew of Bishop Cunningham, he was the brother of Sister Xavier Cunningham, a Sister of St. Joseph of Concordia, who became well-known in her management of the St. Joseph Orphanage farm in Abilene. He also was related to five diocesan priests: Rev. Patrick Cronin, Rev. John Fitzgerald, Msgr. Michael Moran, Rev. Daniel Mulvihill, and Msgr. Michael Mulvihill.

JAN. 5, 2005

Msgr. Armand Girard



Msgr. Girard was born April 26, 1921, in Aurora to Leon and Blanche (Desilet) Girard. He attended local schools, then studied at St. Benedict College in Atchison and St. Louis Preparatory Seminary and Kenrick Seminary, both in St. Louis. He was ordained June 10, 1945, by Bishop Frank Thill in Sacred Heart Cathedral in Salina.

Immediately after ordination he was sent to Catholic University of America to earn a licentiate in canon law.

He was an assistant pastor at Sacred Heart Cathedral (1947-54), pastor at SS. Peter and Paul Parish in Clay Center (1954-59), first pastor of St. Mary, Queen of the Universe Parish in Salina (1959-67), first pastor of Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Hays (1967-75), and pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Norton (1975-85) and Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Goodland (1985-95).

He was pro-chancellor of the diocese (1951-54), vicar general for three bishops (1959-83) and served on the marriage tribunal. He accompanied Bishop Frederick Freking on one of his trips to Rome for the second session of the Second Vatican Council. He was state chaplain of the Kansas Knights of Columbus (1976-78). He was named a monsignor in 1963.

After retirement in 1995, he lived at St. Isidore Student Catholic Center in Manhattan and assisted at the Manhattan and Ogden parishes, Manhattan parochial school and Fort Riley.

He is buried in Mount Calvary Cemetery in Salina.

JAN. 7, 1947

Rev. Charles Menig



Rev. Menig was born Feb. 13, 1879, in Leutkirch, Germany, to Joseph and Juliana (Brunger) Menig. He attended local schools, then Gregorian University in Rome, where he received a licentiate in sacred theology and a doctorate in philosophy. He was ordained Aug. 10, 1901, in Rome. For the next five years he taught history, Latin and modern languages at a Catholic college in Lochan, Austria.

He came to the Concordia Diocese in 1906. He was pastor at St. Anthony Parish in Schoenchen (1906-10), St. Boniface Parish in Tipton (1910-35 and 1939-47), St. John the Baptist Parish in Hanover (1935-36) and St. Paul Parish in Angelus (1936-39).

He is buried in St. Boniface Cemetery in Tipton

JAN. 8, 1916

Bishop Richard Scannell



Bishop Scannell, the first bishop of the Diocese of Concordia, was born May 12, 1845, in County Cork, Ireland, to Patrick and Johanna (Collins) Scannell. He studied at All Hallows College in Dublin, Ireland, and was ordained Feb. 26, 1871, by Bishop John Whelan for the Diocese of Nashville, Tenn.

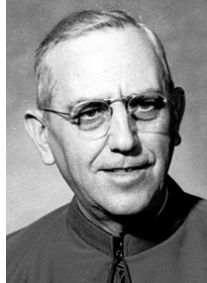
He was an assistant pastor at the cathedral (1871-78), then pastor of St. Columba Parish in East Nashville (1878-79). He was named diocesan administrator in 1879 and served until 1883. He then took a two-year leave of absence for health reasons, then was assigned in 1885 to organize the new St. Joseph Parish in West Nashville. He was appointed vicar general in 1886 and appointed bishop of Concordia on Aug. 9, 1887, one week after the diocese was erected. He was consecrated bishop at St. Joseph Church in West Nashville on Nov. 30, 1887. He arrived in Concordia on Dec. 6, 1887.

He ordained the first priests of the diocese — Father John Regan of Esbon on May 27, 1888, and Father August Heimann of Indiana on June 29, 1889. He also helped to establish the Sisters of St. Joseph of Concordia. He was named bishop of Omaha in late 1890 and installed there on Jan. 30, 1891. He died in office at age 70.

He was buried in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Omaha, but his remains were moved to the bishops' burial plot in Calvary Cemetery in Omaha.

JAN. 10, 1971

Msgr. Edgar Daniel Weigel



Msgr. Weigel was born March 24, 1905, in Victoria to Anton and Apollonia (Burgardt) Weigel. He attended parochial and public schools in Gorham, Topeka, Junction City, Clifton, Russell, Winona, Quinter, Collyer and Cheyenne Wells, Colo. He completed high school and college at Conception Seminary College in Conception, Mo., and seminary at Canisianum Innsbruck in Austria. He was ordained April 6, 1930, at the Innsbruck seminary for the Diocese of Concordia.

He served temporary appointments at Marymount College and at Sacred Heart Parish in Colby, then was pastor of St. Aloysius Gonzaga Parish in Osborne (1931-32), St. Martin of Tours Parish in Seguin (1932-34), St. Michael Parish in Collyer and Christ the King Parish in WaKeeney (1934-39), St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Norton, SS. Philip and James Parish in Phillipsburg and Sacred Heart Parish in Oberlin (1939-47), St. Boniface Parish in Tipton (1947-68) and St. Paul Parish in Angelus (1968-71).

He served on the diocesan school board, was diocesan director of family life in 1948 and was named a monsignor in 1956. While in Tipton, he oversaw the rebuilding of the church, which was destroyed by fire in 1952.

He is buried in the parish cemetery in Angelus.

JAN. 10, 2009

Rev. Henry Kieffer



Rev. Kieffer was born Dec. 7, 1923, near Palmer to Joseph and Catherine (L'Ecuyer) Kieffer. He attended area grade schools and graduated from Belleville High School. He was a sergeant in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II in Europe. He then studied at Conception Seminary College in Conception, Mo. He was ordained May 27, 1954, by Dodge City Bishop John Franz at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Salina.

He was appointed assistant pastor at St. Michael Parish in Collyer and its mission in WaKeeney and Hill City (1954-58). He was pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish in Minneapolis (1958-60), SS. Peter and Paul Parish in Cawker City and its mission in Downs (1960-72), St. John the Baptist Parish in Beloit (1972-78), St. John the Baptist Parish in Clyde and its mission in St. Joseph (1978-81), chaplain for the Sisters of St. Joseph in Concordia (1981-85), and pastor of St. Peter Parish in Aurora (1983-85) and Sacred Heart Parish in Colby (1985-93). He retired in 1993 but served the Concordia parish and residents of the Mount Joseph Senior Village until late 2008.

He is buried in Mount Calvary Cemetery in Clyde.

Rev. Kieffer was diocesan director of scouting for many years. He was one of five men in his extended family who became priests. Three were priests of the Salina Diocese: a nephew, Father Joseph Popelka, and two cousins, Father Joseph Kieffer and Father Merlin Kieffer. An uncle, Father Placidus Kieffer, was a Benedictine priest.

JAN. 11, 1942

Rev. Albert Weikmann



Rev. Weikmann was born Feb. 10, 1850, in Grosskuchen, Germany. After completing his early education in Germany, he came to the United States and entered St. Francis Seminary in Milwaukee, Wis., in September 1861. He was ordained Aug. 27, 1872, by Coadjutor Bishop Louis Fink of the Vicariate of Kansas, later the Diocese of Leavenworth.

Rev. Weikmann served only two years in what would become the Diocese of Concordia, which was formed in 1887. He was the first resident pastor of St. John the Baptist Parish in Hanover (1874-76). He also served parishes in Frankfort, Irish Creek in Reno County, Shawnee, Rock Creek in Jefferson County, Humboldt, Ellinwood and Halstead.

He retired in 1921 in Wichita. He is buried in Calvary Cemetery in Wichita.

JAN. 12, 1913

Rev. James M.J. Reade



Rev. Reade was born Sept. 15, 1853, in Fall River, Mass. He attended Holy Cross College in Worcester, Mass., and schools in Montreal and Woodstock, Md. He was ordained in 1889 in Detroit as a Jesuit missionary.

He ministered in Wyoming and Washington, then conducted missions and retreats in the East before leaving the order and becoming a secular priest. He then served in Galveston and Alton, Texas, and Lincoln, Neb., before coming to the Diocese of Concordia in 1903. He served at Sacred Heart Parish in Niles (1903), Immaculate Conception Parish in Minneapolis (1904-07) and Seven Dolors Parish in Manhattan and its missions in Ogden and McDowell Creek (1907-13). He opened Sacred Heart Academy, the first Catholic high school in the diocese, in 1908 in Manhattan and built new churches in Ogden in 1909 and in McDowell Creek in 1910.

He is buried St. Patrick Cemetery in Ogden.

JAN. 16, 1983

Rev. Ronald Schott



Rev. Schott was born Ralph Richard Schott on Nov. 20, 1907, in Braddock, Pa., to Michael and Mary (Singer) Schott. He entered the Capuchin Franciscans' Province of Pittsburgh in 1929 and took the name Ronald. He studied at St. Fidelis Seminary in Herman, Pa., St. Fidelis Monastery in Victoria, Kan., and Capuchin College in Washington, D.C. He was ordained June 11, 1935, at the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington. He served in Capuchin missions in Puerto Rico (1936-39) and then at Carbon Center, Pa.

He was assigned to Seven Dolours Parish in Manhattan 1944, then asked to be incardinated in the Diocese of Concordia in 1945. While at Manhattan he also was chaplain at the city's hospitals and for the Newman Club at Kansas State College. He served as pastor at Sacred Heart Parish in Park (1949-70) and at Immaculate Conception Parish in Leoville (1970-75). He retired because of ill health but remained in Leoville, where he offered daily Mass.

He is buried in the parish cemetery in Leoville.

JAN. 20, 1931

Rev. John Kremer

Rev. Kremer was born Feb. 10, 1871, in Germany. He was ordained Dec. 3, 1905.

He was pastor of St. Aloysius Parish in Lanham and its mission in Morrowville (1907-09) and again (1913 or 1914 to 1921), when the Lanham parish was merged with Hanover.

He was pastor of SS. Peter and Paul Parish in Clay Center (1910) and St. Mary of the Assumption Parish in Clifton (1911 to 1912 or 1913).

He was pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Selden and St. Martin of Tours Parish in Seguin (1922-28).

He retired and returned to Germany, where he died.

JAN. 20, 1959

Rev. Jerome Augustine Diss



Rev. Diss was born April 13, 1872, in Alsace-Lorraine, France. He was ordained in 1900 at Liege, Belgium, as an Oblate of Mary Immaculate and served for 13 years in the order's missions.

In 1913, he received permission from his superiors to be incardinated by the Diocese of Salt Lake City, where he served until 1921. He was incardinated by the Diocese of Concordia in 1922. After serving temporarily in Lincoln, Vesper and Clyde, he was pastor of St. Anthony Parish in St. Peter (1923), St. Joseph Parish in Damar (1924-25), St. Columba Parish in Elmo and St. Patrick Parish in Gypsum (1926-28), St. Joseph Parish in St. Joseph (1929-32) and St. Aloysius Gonzaga Parish in Osborne (1932-58).

At Osborne, he worked to build a new church, which was dedicated in 1957.

He retired to St. Ann's Home in Concordia, where he died. He is buried in St. Concordia Cemetery in Concordia.

JAN. 25, 1970

Rev. William Fitzgerald



Rev. Fitzgerald was born Aug. 24, 1892, in County Limerick, Ireland. He was ordained May 3, 1918, by Bishop Patrick Foley at St. Patrick College in Carlow, Ireland.

He was assistant pastor at Sacred Heart Parish in Salina (1922), temporary pastor at St. John the Evangelist Parish in Herington (1922), pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Brookville (1922-1931), pastor of St. Columba Parish in Elmo, with a mission in Gypsum (1931-51), chaplain at St. Ann's Home in Concordia (1951-59) and chaplain of Home of the Little Flower in Concordia (1959-63). He retired in 1963.

He died at St. Joseph Hospital in Concordia. He is buried in St. Concordia Cemetery in Concordia.

He was a cousin to Rev. John Fitzgerald, a priest of the diocese from 1904 to 1976.

JAN. 25, 1897

Rev. Valentine Sommereisen



Rev. Sommereisen was born May 28, 1829, in Alsace, France, and came to Minnesota. He was ordained March 8, 1856, and assigned to southern Minnesota parishes. He later served in Yankton, Dakota Territory, and met in Montana with Maj. Gen. George Custer during his Yellowstone Expedition of 1873. Father Sommereisen was ministering to Native Americans in the area after a dispute with Yankton parishioners over the construction of a new church and rectory. The priest then submitted his resignation to his bishop and applied to Leavenworth Bishop Louis Fink to serve in his diocese.

The German-speaking priest was sent to Hays, which was being settled by ethnic Germans emigrating from the Volga River region of Russia. Father Sommereisen took up residence in Hays City in 1876, where he was the first resident pastor. Bishop Fink invited the Capuchin Franciscans to take over the parishes in the region in 1878 and assigned Father Sommereisen to Cottonwood Falls, where he again was the first resident pastor. He resigned from active ministry in 1879 and retired to a farm he had purchased near Hays.

He is buried in St. Joseph Cemetery in Hays.

JAN. 26, 1902

Rev. Ignatius Lager

Rev. Lager was born Jan. 8, 1849 and ordained in 1874. He served parishes in Rock Creek (east of Manhattan), Elbow and Wamego (1874-79) and St. Bernard Parish in Ellsworth and its missions at Wilson, Lincoln, Brookville, Plum Creek, Salt Creek and Phelan Settlement (1880-81).

He then served parishes in Wisconsin and Minnesota.

He is buried in St. John's Cemetery Lastrup, Minnesota.

JAN. 27, 1954

Rev. Joseph J. Conway



Rev. Conway was born Jan. 19, 1871, in County Waterford, Ireland. He studied for the priesthood at the Grand Seminary in Chambéry, France, and finished at St. Francis Seminary in Milwaukee in 1893. He was ordained to the priesthood on Dec. 8, 1893, by Archbishop Frederick Katzer in Milwaukee.

He came to the Diocese of Concordia in 1897 after having served in the Cincinnati and Wichita dioceses. He and Msgr. John Maher were recruited by the Diocese of Concordia to open and teach at a Catholic college in Belleville. The project was abandoned, but both remained as priests of the diocese.

Rev. Conway was appointed secretary to Bishop John Cunningham while serving mission parishes near Concordia and was an assistant pastor at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Cathedral in Concordia (1899). He was pastor of St. John the Baptist in Clyde (1902-03) and St. Andrew in Abilene (1904), assistant pastor at the cathedral (1905), pastor of St. Francis of Assisi in Norton (1906) and assistant pastor at St. Joseph in New Almelo and its missions in Logan and Densmore (1907- 11). He was pastor of SS. Peter and Paul Clay Center (1917). He was pastor of St. Martin of Tours in Seguin (1917-18) and St. Isidore in Cuba (1919). He also served as chaplain at St. Joseph Orphanage in Abilene.

Two sisters were women religious: Sister Mary Calista, a Sister of Mercy in Cincinnati, and Sister Evangelist, a Notre Dame sister in London.

He became ill and was hospitalized in 1935. He remained in healthcare facilities operated by the Alexian Brothers until his death in Oshkosh, Wis.

He is buried in Mount St. Joseph Cemetery in Abilene.

JAN. 29, 1907

Rev. Bernard Fitzpatrick

Baptismal records show Rev. Fitzpatrick ministering in Collyer, Grainfield, Oakley, Wallace, Belleville, Grinnell, Oberlin, Vine Creek and Jamestown from Immaculate Conception Parish in Minneapolis in 1888.

He was an assistant pastor at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Cathedral in Concordia (1889). He was pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Norton (1889-90) and St. John the Baptist Parish of Clyde (1890-92).

No further information is known.

JAN. 30, 1975

Rev. Melvin Ruhkamp



Rev. Ruhkamp was born Feb. 14, 1936, in Hanover to August and Anna (Landoll) Ruhkamp. He attended local schools, then Conception Seminary High School in Conception, Mo., and Conception Seminary College.

He was ordained to the priesthood on June 2, 1962, by Bishop Frederick Freking at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Salina.

He was an assistant pastor at Sacred Heart Cathedral (1962-66) and Sacred Heart Parish in Colby (1966-68). He was pastor of SS. Philip and James Parish in Phillipsburg and its mission in Claudell (1968-69), St. John the Evangelist Parish in Logan and its mission in Densmore (1969-72) and St. Augustine Parish in Washington and its missions in Morrowville and Greenleaf (1972-75).

He was killed when his car went off the highway and overturned while he was driving home from a retreat in Victoria. He is buried in St. John Cemetery in Hanover.

He was a nephew of Msgr. Gilbert Landoll.

FEB. 1, 1949

Rev. Joseph Browne



Rev. Browne was born July 8, 1890, in County Tipperary, Ireland, to Charles and Katharine Browne. He attended Roscrea National School and Mount St. Joseph College, both of Roscrea. He completed theological studies at All Hallows Seminary in Dublin. He was ordained to the priesthood for the Diocese of Concordia on June 22, 1914, at All Hallows.

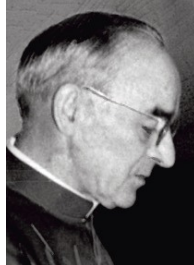
He was assistant at St. Michael Parish in Kimeo for his uncle, Rev. Michael Browne (1914-15). He was pastor of St. Mary of the Assumption Parish in Clifton (1916-30), and during that time also served St. Louis Parish in Palmer, SS. Peter and Paul Parish in Morrowville, St. Bernard Parish in Clara, Seven Dolours Parish in Manhattan and St. Michael in Kimeo. He was pastor of St. Patrick Parish in Ogden (1930-39).

Rev. Joseph Browne returned to Kimeo as pastor (1939-44). He again was pastor of Clifton from 1944 until his death from asphyxiation at the rectory in Clifton on Feb. 1, 1949. A faulty furnace flue filled the rectory with carbon monoxide; his housekeeper Jane Curry was stricken but recovered.

He is buried in the church cemetery in Clifton.

FEB. 3, 1956

Msgr. James Bradley



Msgr. Bradley was born Feb. 19, 1884, in County Meath, Ireland, to Bernard and Katherine (Rockford) Bradley. He attended St. Finian College and All Hallows Seminary, Dublin, and was ordained to the priesthood for the Diocese of Concordia on June 24, 1908, at All Hallows Church in Dublin. His sister Kathrine came with him to America and was his housekeeper until he died.

He was assigned as pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Greenleaf, with missions in Coon Creek and Palmer (1908-13), St. Bernard Parish of Ellsworth and St. Joseph Parish of Brookville (1913-27), St. Francis Xavier Parish of Junction City (1927-55) and Immaculate Conception Parish of Solomon (1955-56). He served as dean of the Junction City deanery, served on the diocesan school board and was a member of the diocesan Board of Consultors. He was named a monsignor in 1949.

He is buried in St. Mary Cemetery in Junction City.

FEB. 4, 1898

Rev. Philip Scholl



Rev. Scholl was born July 12, 1839, and was ordained June 11, 1870. He was a pioneer priest in Kansas. He first served in Topeka, then was appointed in 1871 to Immaculate Conception Parish in Solomon and missions west to Hays. He then served at St. Francis Xavier Parish in Junction City and its missions in Abilene, Hope, Chapman, Fort Riley and Skiddy (1871-75). In Junction City, he built a small church and then the first parochial school. He also is credited with founding Abilene's first parochial school and the construction of its church in 1874.

He then served parishes in Alma, Wamego and Independence, where he built that parish's first church, completed in 1885. He died in Independence in 1898.

He is buried in St. Mary Cemetery in Junction City.

FEB. 5, 1991

Rev. Louis Lee Bachand



Rev. Bachand was born Feb. 5, 1931, in St. Joseph to Paul and Lorette (Dandurand) Bachand. He attended a country school near St. Joseph, Clyde High School, then Maur Hill High School in Atchison. He attended St. Louis Preparatory Seminary and Kenrick Seminary in St. Louis. He was ordained to the priesthood on April 6, 1957, by Bishop Frank Thill at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Salina.

He was an assistant at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Concordia (1957-60), St. Francis Xavier Parish in Junction City (1960) and St. Aloysius Gonzaga Parish in Osborne (1960). He was chaplain of St. Thomas Hospital in Colby (1960-63) and St. Ann's Home in Concordia (1963-77) and assistant chaplain at Mount St. Joseph Home in Concordia (1977-91).

Rev. Bachand suffered from muscular dystrophy, and his physical condition limited his active parochial ministry to only a few years. He moved to Mount St. Joseph Home in Concordia in 1977.

He was active in Boy Scouts and received the Silver Beaver and St. George scouting awards in 1972.

He is buried in St. Concordia Cemetery in Concordia.

FEB. 6, 2023

Dcn. Thomas A. Koerner



Deacon Koerner was born July 11, 1943 in Hays, KS to Joseph and Alberta (Miller) Koerner and grew up in Hays.

He married Judy K. Giebler on June 11, 1977 in Hays. He was a 1961 graduate of St. Joseph's Military Academy, joined the Air Force after graduation and was stationed in Korea and Okinawa during the Vietnam era. He was a City Commissioner 1975-79, received his degree in Criminal Justice and worked at Larned Correctional Mental Health Facility as Staff Development Specialist. He worked in Pest Control, Farmers State Bank Loan Officer and many different jobs.

His memberships included Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church, St. Marys Third Degree Knights of Columbus Council #6984, and the Bishop Cunningham Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus Assembly. His careers in law enforcement were: Sergeant with Staff Development at Larned Mental Health Correctional Facility, Police Officer with the Hays Police Dept., Sheriffs Deputy with Ellis County Sheriffs Dept.

On January 3, 2009, he was ordained a Permanent Deacon with the Salina Diocese under Bishop Paul Coakley. He served at Immaculate of Heart Mary Church in Hays, KS until his retirement.

He is buried in St. Joseph Cemetery in Hays.

FEB. 6, 1936

Rev. Gustave Lecoutere



Rev. Lecoutere was born Jan. 14, 1869, in Antwerp, Belgium, to Peter and Louise (Denvroecke) Lecoutere. He attended Jesuit College in Antwerp and Mechlin Seminary in Louvain, Belgium. He was ordained June 29, 1893, in Louvain.

He came to Kansas and was pastor at Seven Dolors Parish in Manhattan (1893-96), St. Louis Parish in Palmer (1896-98), St. John the Baptist Parish in Clyde (1898-99), SS. Peter and Paul Parish in Cawker City (1899-1904), St. John in Clyde (1904-07), Our Lady of Perpetual Help Cathedral in Concordia (1907-13), St. Peter Parish in Aurora (1913- 17) and St. Joseph Parish in St. Joseph (1917-21).

He went to the Diocese of South Bend, Ind., to pastor a Belgian national parish (1921-35), then was a hospital chaplain in Logansport, Ind. (1935-36).

He is buried in Highland Cemetery South Bend, Ind.

FEB. 6, 1969

Rev. George Weber



Rev. Weber was born Dec. 13, 1883, in Magdeburg, German to George and Eymilie (Rittmeyer, also spelled Rittmeier, Rithmeier) Weber. He was one of five sons who became priests, with three of them serving in the Dioceses of Concordia and Salina.

Rev. Weber came to the United States and studied at St. Meinrad Seminary in Indiana with his brother, Clement. The two were ordained May 21, 1910, in Indiana for the Diocese of Concordia.

Rev. George Weber served temporary assignments through 1912 at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Goodland, Sacred Heart Parish in Colby, St. Anthony Parish in St. Peter, St. Martin of Tours Parish in Seguin, St. John the Baptist Parish in Clyde and in Kansas City, Kan. He was loaned to the Diocese of Dallas (1912-19).

After his return, he was pastor of St. Edward Parish in Belleville, with missions in Cuba, Munden and Tiago (1919-25) and Holy Cross Parish in Pfeifer (1925-58).

He retired in 1958 and was a resident at St. Joseph Hospital in Concordia until his death. He is buried in the parish cemetery in Pfeifer.

FEB. 7, 1941

Msgr. Michael Heitz



Msgr. Heitz was born March 16, 1856, in Alsace-Lorraine, France, to Michael and Madeleine (Aft) Heitz. He studied at the Petit Seminaire and the Grand Seminaire in Strasbourg, France, and was ordained Aug. 10, 1879, for the Diocese of Strasbourg. He later earned a doctorate in sacred theology in Rome.

Ten years after his ordination, his bishop asked for priests willing to serve the French who were migrating to America. Fluent in Italian and German in addition to French, he was accepted by Bishop Richard Scannell of the Diocese of Concordia to serve the French communities in Cloud County. He assisted Father Louis Mollier, pastor of St. Joseph Parish in St. Joseph (1890-91), then served Our Lady of Perpetual Help Cathedral Parish in Concordia and its missions (1891-92) and SS. Peter and Paul Parish in Cawker City (1892-96). He was sent to Hutchinson, in the Diocese of Wichita, where he served until, he was named pastor of St. John the Baptist Parish in Beloit (1898-1924).

He retired to a Franciscan mission in California but soon asked to be reassigned to the diocese in 1925. He was pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Damar (1925-29), then retired to Cawker City. He was named a monsignor in 1926. In Beloit, he built the present church, known for its impressive architecture, as well as the convent and grade school.

He is buried in St. John Cemetery in Beloit.

FEB. 7, 1964

Rev. Charles J. Muller



Rev. Muller was born Oct. 6, 1893, in Belfort, France, to John and Theresia (Uhl) Muller. He joined the Capuchin Franciscans and came to the United States, where he studied in Yonkers, N.Y., St. Fidelis Seminary in Herman, Pa., SS. Peter and Paul Seminary in Cumberland, Md., and Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. He was ordained Sept. 23, 1930, at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington by Auxiliary Bishop John McNamara.

As a Capuchin, he was assistant pastor of St. Fidelis Parish in Victoria (1933-34.) He left the Capuchins and was incardinated by the Diocese of Concordia in 1935. He was temporary pastor of St. Boniface Parish in Tipton (1935), and pastor of St. Anthony Parish in St. Peter (1934-48) and St. Joseph Parish in Oakley (1948- 60).

He retired in 1960 to Towanda, Pa., where he died in 1964.

He is buried at Saints Peter and Paul Cemetery Towanda Pennsylvania.

FEB. 7, 2012

Rev. Galen Long



Rev. Long was born April 23, 1944, in Norton to Andrew and Regina (Otter) Long. The family moved from New Almelo to a farm near Beloit, where he attended St. John Catholic Schools, graduating from high school in 1962.

He attended Conception Seminary College for one year, then completed bachelor's and master's degrees in education at Kansas State University. He taught all eight grades at Round Top School in Mitchell County for two years, then enlisted in 1969 in the U.S. Navy, where he served three years as an aviation supply storekeeper and four years as a lieutenant in the Navy's Aviation Supply Corps. He was assigned to the USS Roosevelt, an aircraft carrier with duty in the Mediterranean.

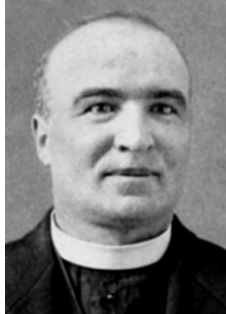
After his tour was over in 1976, he taught at St. John Catholic High School in Beloit until enrolling in 1987 in St. Meinrad Seminary in Indiana, where he completed a master's degree in divinity. He was ordained June 1, 1991, by Bishop George Fitzsimons at St. John in Beloit.

He was assistant pastor at Sacred Heart Cathedral(1991-93) and pastor at St. Mary Parish in Ellis (1993- 97), Sacred Heart Parish in Colby (1997-2003), Sacred Heart Cathedral (2003-04), St. Boniface Parish in Tip- ton and SS. Peter and Paul Parish in Cawker City (2004-06), Sacred Heart Parish in Atwood, Assumption of Mary Parish in Herndon and St. John Nepomucene Parish in Beardsley (2006-08) and Sacred Heart Parish in Plainville and St. Thomas Parish in Stockton (2008-12). He served on the Priests Council and on the Catholic Charities board and was vocation director in the early 1990s. He died following complications after surgery. He is buried in St. John Cemetery in Beloit.

His brother, Rev. Melvin Long, 71, was ordained in 1966 and retired from active priesthood in 2002.

FEB. 10, 1911

Rev. Louis Mary Mollier



Rev. Mollier was born Oct. 28, 1846, in St. Pierre de Genebroz, Savoie, France. He came to Kansas in 1869 and was ordained to the priesthood on April 4, 1873, in Leavenworth by Bishop Louis Mary Fink to serve in what was then the Vicariate Apostolic of Kansas. It later became the Diocese of Leavenworth, and the Diocese of Concordia was formed from it in 1887.

Rev. Mollier was appointed pastor of St. Joseph Parish in St. Joseph and served missions as far west as the Colorado line, traveling by pony. He oversaw the construction of churches in St. Joseph, Aurora, Clyde, Concordia, Beloit, Clay Center, Palmer and Greenleaf. He was pastor at St. Joseph for 36 years until his retirement in 1908. He retired to Clyde, where he died.

He is buried in the Nazareth Motherhouse Cemetery in Concordia.

FEB. 11, 1933

Rev. Anthony Schaefer

Rev. Schaefer was born Aug. 17, 1875, in Silesia, which is now part of Poland. He studied in Wroclaw, Poland, and was ordained July 14, 1902, in Chur, Switzerland.

He was pastor of St. Isidore Parish in Cuba (1909-17), Sacred Heart Parish in Selden (1917-21) and St. Anthony Parish in St. Peter (1921-22), chaplain of St. John's Hospital in Salina (1922), and pastor of St. Michael Parish in Collyer (1922-30) and SS. Peter and Paul Parish in Clay Center (1930-33).

He is reported to have fluently spoken 10 languages and was known as a confessor of numerous immigrant communities, hearing parishioners' confessions in their native languages.

He is buried in St. Concordia Cemetery in Concordia.

FEB. 13, 1968

Msgr. Michael Peter Dreiling



Msgr. Dreiling was born May 24, 1887, in Victoria to Michael and Catherine (Leiker) Dreiling. He attended St. Benedict College in Atchison and St. Francis Solanus College in Quincy, Ill. He attended seminary in Innsbruck, Tyrol, Austria, where he was ordained July 26, 1913.

He served St. Michael Parish in Collyer, with missions in WaKeeney, Grainfield, Grinnell, Oakley and Wallace (1913-22), then spent a year at the Catholic University of America in Washington. He returned and was pastor at St. Patrick Parish in Lincoln (1923), St. Anthony Parish in St. Peter (1924-35), St. Boniface Parish in Tipton (1935-39) and St. Paul Parish in Angelus (1939-66).

He retired to Victoria, where he died. He is buried in St. Fidelis Cemetery in Victoria.

He was named a monsignor in 1949. He wrote an autobiography, "A True Story of My Life."

FEB. 13, 1983

Msgr. Michael Moran



Msgr. Moran was born Oct. 9, 1899, in County Kerry, Ireland, to Michael and Honora (Fitzgerald) Moran. He attended St. Michael College and the University College in Ireland. He was ordained June 6, 1926, by Archbishop John Glennon at Kenrick Seminary in St. Louis for the Diocese of Concordia.

He was an assistant chaplain at St. Joseph Orphanage in Abilene (1926), assistant pastor at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Cathedral in Concordia and its mission in Jamestown (1926-27), assistant pastor at St. Francis Xavier Parish in Junction City (1927), assistant pastor at St. Patrick Parish in Lincoln (1927) and assistant pastor at Sacred Heart Parish in Oberlin (1928-29). He then earned a master's degree from the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.

He was chaplain and head of the religion and philosophy departments at Marymount College (1930-45) while also pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Brookville. He was pastor of St. Mary Parish in Russell and its mission in Dorrance (1945-65) and St. Michael Parish in Chapman (1965-75). He retired to Salina, where he died.

He was named a monsignor on April 8, 1956.

He is buried in St. Patrick Cemetery near Chapman.

FEB. 15, 2022

Rev. James Grennan



Rev. Grennan was born on December 28, 1924, in Jewell County, Kansas, the son of William J. and Mary Agnes (Doyle) Grennan. He grew up in Jewell County north of Beloit, Kansas and also lived in Cloud County west of Jamestown, Kansas. He attended high school for 2 years at Jamestown High School before going to the seminary in St. Louis, Missouri. As a young man he worked summers custom cutting wheat harvests for his brothers John and Michael, traveling from Texas to Montana.

He was ordained on May 13, 1951, and that same year took his first assignment as parochial vicar at St. Michael Parish in Collyer, Kansas. He served 70 years as a priest for the Catholic Diocese in Salina. He served in WaKeeney, Hill City, Delphos, Glasco, Esbon, Mankato, Smith Center, Oakley, Manhattan and Plainville. He was assigned to St. Mary's Catholic Church in Russell, Kansas from 1983 to 1993 and later served in Stockton and Logan. In 2001, he retired and moved back to Russell.

Even though he had officially retired, his great passion was to serve the Lord and the church. He continued to serve by helping at the St. Mary Queen of Angels Catholic Church in Russell. He ministered at nursing homes, hospitals as well as traveling the diocese helping serve other parishes as needed. He is buried in St. Mary Catholic Cemetery in Russell.

FEB. 15, 1919

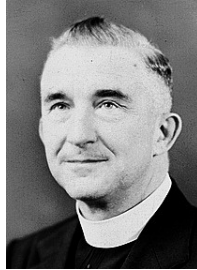
Rev. Adolph Haffmans

Rev. Haffmans was born Nov. 16, 1857. His surname also is found in diocesan records as Hoffman and Hoffmans and his first name as Alphonsus. He was ordained April 2, 1881.

He was the first resident pastor of St. Michael Parish in Kimeo (1883-97). He was chaplain of Nazareth Motherhouse of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Concordia (1903-07) and chaplain of the sisters' orphanage in Abilene (1903-04, 1908). No other information has been found.

FEB. 16, 1970

Rev. Patrick Leo Cronin



Rev. Cronin was born Dec. 12, 1897, in County Kerry, Ireland, and studied at St. Patrick College in Carlow, Ireland, and Kenrick Seminary in St. Louis. He was a cousin of Bishop John Cunningham and was ordained by Bishop Francis Tief on June 11, 1922, at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Cathedral in Concordia.

He served as an assistant at Osborne, Norton and Salina during his first year as a priest, then was pastor at Immaculate Conception Parish in Minneapolis (1923-29), St. Mary Parish in Russell (1929-31), St. Peter Parish in Wallace and Holy Ghost Parish in Sharon Springs (1932-39) and St. Agnes in Grainfield (1939-40).

He joined the U.S. Army in 1940 as a chaplain — he had been a chaplain in the U.S. Army Reserves for 15 years — and served under Gen. George Patton in Europe. He was awarded four battle stars, the Bronze Star and the Army Commendation Medal and Ribbon and discharged with the rank of colonel.

After his return from World War II, he was pastor at SS. Peter and Paul Parish in Clay Center (1946), and Sacred Heart Parish in Selden (1947-62), when he retired.

He served as chaplain at a hospital in Cheyenne Wells, Colo., then lived in Ireland and Kansas City, Mo., before entering the Veterans Administration hospital in Los Angeles, where he died.

He is buried in the national cemetery in Los Angeles.

FEB. 18, 1990

Rev. Ernest Gallagher



Rev. Gallagher was born Dec. 20, 1920, in Hoxie to Ernest Sr. and Minnie (Fleming) Gallagher. He was baptized in the Leoville parish but moved to the Grainfield parish at the age of 4. He attended local schools, then St. Joseph College in Kirkwood, Mo., Salvatorian Seminary in St. Nazianz, Wis., and St. Louis Preparatory Seminary in St. Louis. He completed studies at Kenrick Seminary in St. Louis and was ordained May 28, 1950, by Bishop Frank Thill at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Salina.

He was assistant pastor at St. John the Baptist Parish in Beloit, with a mission in Glasco, (1950-54), administrator of Sacred Heart Parish in Greenleaf, with a mission in Washington (1954-59), and pastor of St. Peter Parish in Aurora (1959-62), Sacred Heart Parish in Oberlin (1962-66) and St. Ann Parish in Zurich (1966-90). He also was temporary administrator of St. Thomas Parish in Stockton (1974-75).

He died at St. Anthony Hospital in Hays following a heart attack. He is buried in the parish cemetery in Zurich.

FEB. 19, 1958

Rev. Louis E. Wahlmeier



Rev. Wahlmeier was born March 7, 1871, in Laer, Germany, to Bernard and Maria Wahlmeier. He attended St. Benedict College in Atchison and Kenrick Seminary in St. Louis. He was ordained for the Diocese of Concordia on June 14, 1901, in St. Louis.

He was pastor at St. Joseph Parish in New Almelo with missions in Logan and Densmore (1901-03), Sacred Heart Parish in Plainville, with missions in Hill City and Natoma (1903-04), Sacred Heart Parish in Park (1904-08), St. Mary, Help of Christians Parish in Gorham, with missions in Russell and Dorrance (1908-13) and SS. Peter and Paul Parish in Cawker City, with a mission in Downs (1913-44).

Rev. Wahlmeier retired in 1944 but remained a resident of Cawker City. He then served as chaplain at a prisoner of war camp for German soldiers near Cawker City and later as temporary administrator of the Downs parish.

In 1906, he was the first priest in the diocese to acquire an automobile.

He was in ill health when assigned to Cawker City in 1913, and Bishop John Cunningham advised him to seek treatment at the Waconda Springs sanitarium nearby. Rev. Wahlmeier later reported that his health had been restored, and he remained in Cawker City for 31 years, during which time he started a parochial school and built a new rectory.

He is buried in the parish cemetery in Cawker City.

FEB. 21, 1906

Rev. John F. Leary



Rev. Leary was born June 22, 1845, in Brasher Falls, N.Y. He fought for the Union during the Civil War and afterward enrolled at Our Lady of the Angels Seminary in New York and St. John College in Minneapolis. He was ordained April 22, 1875, in Leavenworth by Bishop Louis Fink.

He was a mission priest in Leavenworth County, Perry, Jefferson County and Meridan. In 1880, he was given charge of the Solomon missions, based at Immaculate Conception Parish in Solomon, which covered Dickinson, Saline, Ottawa and Clay counties. He built the first church in Minneapolis, the church and rectory in Solomon and the rectory in Abilene.

He was named pastor of St. Andrew Parish in Abilene in 1886 and built churches in Elmo and Herington and Mount St. Joseph Academy in Abilene, later St. Joseph Orphanage.

He became pastor of St. Michael Parish in Chapman in 1893, where he served until his death.

He was named grand chaplain of the Grand Army of the Republic at its national convention in Denver in 1905.

He is buried in St. Patrick Cemetery near Chapman.

FEB. 22, 1925

Rev. Thomas Scanlon



Rev. Scanlon was born Jan. 1, 1884, in County Limerick, Ireland. His surname also appears as Scanlan. He was ordained May 26, 1912.

He was pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Niles (1915), Sacred Heart Parish in Esbon and its missions in Jewell City and Formoso (1916-17), St. Joseph Parish in Brookville, with a mission in Holyrood (1917-22) and St. Paul Parish in Angelus (1923-25).

He died at the age of 41 and is buried at Mount Calvary Cemetery in Salina.

FEB. 22, 1957

Msgr. August Koerperich



Msgr. Koerperich was born March 6, 1892, in Selden to Paul and Mary (Steggeman or Stegman) Koerperich. He attended local schools, St. Joseph College in Hays, St. Francis Seminary in Milwaukee and Kenrick Seminary in St. Louis. He was ordained Aug. 14, 1921, by Bishop Francis Tief at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Cathedral in Concordia.

He was chaplain at the Nazareth Academy and Convent in Concordia (1921), then pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish in Minneapolis, with missions in Ada, Vine Creek and Barnard (1921-23) and Sacred Heart Parish in Greenleaf, with missions at various times in Coon Creek and Washington (1923-54).

He retired because of ill health and spent the remainder of his life as a patient at St. Agnes Hospital in Fond du Lac, Wis.

He is buried in the parish cemetery in Greenleaf.

He was named a monsignor in 1943. He was diocesan director of the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, forerunner of religious education programs (1937-54).

Of 11 children in his family, four entered religious life. His brother, Rev. John Koerperich, was a priest in the diocese from 1933 to 1965, and two sisters became nuns: Ann (Sister Mary Austin, a Sister of St. Agnes) and Margaret (Sister Mary Paula, a Sister of St. Joseph of Concordia).

FEB. 22, 1976

Rev. John Fitzgerald



Rev. Fitzgerald was born Nov. 14, 1880, in County Limerick, Ireland, to Edward and Helen (Collins) Fitzgerald. He studied at St. John Seminary and was ordained June 19, 1904, by Bishop Richard Sheehan at St. John Pro-Cathedral in Waterford, Ireland.

He came to the Diocese of Concordia on Sept. 17, 1904.

He served briefly as assistant pastor at Sacred Heart Parish in Salina. He was pastor of SS. Peter and Paul Parish in Cawker City, with missions in Downs, Osborne and Stockton (1904-06), Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Goodland, with missions in Colby and Selden (1906-11), St. Patrick Parish in Lincoln, with missions in Vesper and Waldo (1911-23), St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Norton (1923-26) and St. John the Evangelist Parish in Herington (1926-51), with a mission in Hope (1926-46).

He retired in 1951 because of ill health. He died at St. John Rest Home in Victoria. At the time of his death, he was the oldest living priest in the diocese, serving nearly 72 years as a priest.

He is buried in Mount Calvary Cemetery in Salina.

His brother was Rev. William Fitzgerald, a priest of the diocese from 1922 to 1970.

FEB. 25, 1925

Rev. Kaspar T. Witkopf

Rev. Witkopf was born Oct. 16, 1846, in Baden, Germany. He was ordained in the Cathedral of Freiburg on July 25, 1874, for the Diocese of Alton, Ill. (now Springfield). His surname also appears in diocesan records as Withopf, and his first name also appears as Kasper and Caspar.

He served at St. Boniface Church in Quincy, Ill., before coming to the Diocese of Concordia.

He was assistant pastor of SS. Peter and Paul Parish in Clay Center (1884-85), then pastor of St. Paul Parish in Delphos (1886-87), Holy Cross Parish in Pfeifer (1888-96), Immaculate Conception Parish in Leoville (1897-1907) and SS. Peter and Paul Parish in Cawker City (1907-13).

He retired to the Diocese of Buffalo in 1914 and served as chaplain at St. Francis Home for the Aged and Infirm in Gardenville, a suburb of Buffalo, until his death. The home was operated by the Sisters of St. Francis.

He is buried in the United German and French Catholic Cemetery in Cheektowaga, N.Y.

FEB. 26, 2022

Rev. Beryl L. Gibson



Rev. Beryl Gibson was born Dec. 22, 1930 to Lester and Alma (Gaines) Gibson. He attended Phillipsburg Grade School and High School. He attended Miltonvale Wesleyan College and he received a bachelor's in chemistry from Fort Hays State University. He served in the military, with the Counter Intelligence Corps of the U.S. Army from 1954-1959. He received his bachelor's and master's in German and German History from the University of Heidelberg, Germany. He taught at Creighton University in Omaha, Neb. and high school at St. Mary Academy.

He attended seminary at Sacred Heart School of Theology in Hales Corners, Wisc. He was Ordained May 18, 1996 by Bishop George Fitzsimons at SS. Philip and James Church in Phillipsburg at age 65. He was parochial vicar at the following parishes; St. Francis Xavier in Junction City, St. Thomas More in Manhattan, Sacred Heart in Colby and Immaculate Heart of Mary in Hays. He was pastor of St. Francis Parish in St. Francis, St. Joseph Parish in Bird City and St. John Nepomucene Parish in Beardsley. He retired to Phillipsburg in 2005.

FEB. 29, 2000

Rev. Albert J. Dwyer



Rev. Dwyer was born Dec. 11, 1932, near New Almelo to John and Florence (Bates) Dwyer. He attended Conception Seminary College and Conception Seminary and was ordained to the priesthood on May 24, 1958, by Bishop Frederick Freking at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Salina.

He was an assistant pastor at St. Francis Xavier Parish in Junction City (1958-62).

He was pastor of St. Peter Parish in Aurora (1962-68), St. Frances Cabrini Parish in Hoxie and St. Martin of Tours Parish in Seguin (1968-74), Sacred Heart Parish in Park (1974-80), St. Anthony Parish in St. Peter (1978-80), St. John the Baptist Parish in Hanover, St. Michael Parish in Kimeo and Sacred Heart Parish in Greenleaf (1980-84), Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Hays and Our Lady, Help of Christians Parish in Antonino (1984-88) and St. Francis of Assisi Parish in St. Francis and St. Joseph Parish in Bird City (1988-94.)

He an assistant pastor at St. John the Baptist in Beloit and St. Mary Parish in Glasco (1994-97) and St. Francis Xavier in Junction City (1997-2000).

He is buried in St. Mary Cemetery in Glasco.

MARCH 1, 1973

Rev. George Francis Breckwell



Rev. Breckwell was born Sept. 6, 1894, in Brooklyn, N.Y., to James and Margaret (Thompson) Breckwell. He attended public grade school and St. Mary Preparatory College of North East, Pa. He then studied at St. Mary College in Pennsylvania and St. Bonaventure Seminary in New York. He was ordained June 23, 1929, by Bishop Francis Tief at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Cathedral in Concordia.

He was an assistant pastor at St. Peter Parish in Aurora, St. Anthony Parish in Miltonvale and St. Peter Parish in Meredith (1929-31).

He was pastor of St. Mary of the Assumption Parish in Clifton, St. Bernard Parish in Clara and SS. Peter and Paul Parish in Morrowville (1931-44), chaplain of St. Thomas Hospital in Colby (1944-45), then pastor of St. Aloysius Gonzaga Parish in Osborne and St. Francis Parish of Claudell (1945-46), SS. Peter and Paul Parish of Cawker City, St. Francis of Claudell and St. Mary Parish of Downs (1946-47), St. Patrick Parish of Lincoln (1947-52), St. Michael Parish of Chapman (1952- 60) and Immaculate Conception Parish of Minneapolis (1960). He was chaplain of St. Ann's Home in Concordia (1960), St. Joseph Hospital in Concordia (1961-63) and Home of the Little Flower in Concordia (1963-69). He retired in Concordia.

He is buried in St. Patrick Cemetery near Chapman.

MARCH 2, 1964

Rev. Richard James Fox



Rev. Fox was born Nov. 27, 1884, in County Westmeath, Ireland. He studied at All Hallows Seminary and was ordained June 24, 1910. He was among four priests ordained that day who came to the Diocese of Concordia (the others were Msgr. James Bradley, Rev. Joseph Browne and Rev. John O'Reilly).

He was assistant pastor of St. Joseph Parish in New Almelo, with missions in Logan and Densmore (1912- 14).

He was pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Greenleaf, with missions in Coon Creek and Palmer (1915-23) and St. Patrick Parish in Lincoln (1924-30). He was injured while traveling in a horse drawn vehicle on his way to the missions, which led to his early retirement in 1930.

He returned to Ireland, where he lived until his death in Dublin.

MARCH 4, 2018

Rev. Roger Hough



Rev. Roger Hough was born Feb. 29, 1936, in Abilene to William and Ruth (Morgan) Hough. He attended school at Garfield and McKinley Grade Schools, Abilene Junior High and Abilene High School. He was a graduate of Abilene High School, and attended Rockhurst College in Kansas City, Marquette University in Milwaukee, and Immaculate Conception Seminary in Conception, Mo. Fr. Hough was ordained May 28, 1964, by Bishop Fredrick W. Freking, at St. Andrew's Catholic Church, Abilene.

He served as Parochial Vicar at parishes in Concordia, Hanover, Salina, and Clay Center. He was the Associate Chaplin at St. Robert Bellarmine Parish — St. Isadore Catholic Student Center in Manhattan. He was pastor for parishes in Delphos, Glasco, Meredith, Mankato, Jamestown, Stockton, Kanopolis, Brookville, Holyrood, Clifton, Kimeo, Clyde, St. Joseph, Grainfield, Seldon, Leoville, Osborne, and Downs.

Fr. Hough retired to Leawood in 2005. He was buried in Mt. Calvary Cemetery in Solomon.

MARCH 6, 2006

Msgr. Clement Kruse



Msgr. Kruse was born Sept. 24, 1915, in Selden to John and Katherine (Zimmerman) Kruse. He attended schools in Leoville and St. Joseph College and Military Academy in Hays. He studied at St. Louis Preparatory College and Kenrick Seminary. He was ordained June 7, 1941, by Bishop Frank Thill at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Cathedral in Concordia.

He was assistant pastor at St. John the Baptist Parish in Clyde (1941), chaplain at Marymount College in Salina and assistant pastor at St. Joseph Parish in Brookville (1941), chaplain at St. Joseph Orphanage in Abilene (1941-43), and assistant pastor at Sacred Heart Parish in Salina (1943-47).

He was pastor of Holy Ghost Parish in Sharon Springs, with a mission in Wallace (1947-57), St. Agnes Parish in Grainfield (1957-67), Sacred Heart Parish in Plainville (1967), Sacred Heart Parish in Selden (1968- 74), St. Frances Cabrini Parish in Hoxie and St. Martin of Tours Parish in Seguin (1974-76) and St. Joseph Parish in Damar (1976-82).

He was named a monsignor in 1982 and retired later that year. A grand nephew is Mercy Father Tony Stephens, originally of Angelus. He is buried in Mount Calvary Cemetery in Salina.

MARCH 8, 1962

Msgr. Henry J. Gesenhues



Msgr. Gesenhues was born May 12, 1892, in Starlight, Ind., to Henry and Theresa (Verst) Gesenhues. He attended schools in Cincinnati and Kenrick Seminary in St. Louis. He was ordained Dec. 21, 1923, by Bishop Francis Tief at St. Joseph Church in Hays.

He was assistant pastor at St. Agnes Parish in Grainfield, with missions in Grinnell, Oakley, Wallace and Sharon Springs (1924).

He was pastor at Sacred Heart Parish in Esbon, with missions in Jewell City, Mankato and Formoso (1924-27), St. Paul Parish in Angelus (1927-36) and St. John the Baptist Parish in Hanover (1936-62). He was named a monsignor in 1956.

He died of an apparent heart attack following surgery in St. Joseph Hospital in Concordia.

He is buried in St. John Cemetery in Hanover.

MARCH 10, 1937

Rev. John Sheehan

He was chaplain of Nazareth Motherhouse in Concordia (1921) and chaplain of Marymount College in Salina when it opened (1922).

He was pastor of St. John the Evangelist Parish in Herington (1926), Sacred Heart Parish in Niles (1927), SS. Peter and Paul Parish in Clay Center (1928) and St. Columba Parish in Elmo (1929-31).

No other information is known.

MARCH 10, 2012

Rev. Kenneth Paul Lohrmeyer



Rev. Lohrmeyer was born Oct. 25, 1944, in Stockton to Adolph and Luella Lohrmeyer. He attended schools in Webster and Logan, then high school at St. Francis Seminary in Victoria. He studied at Cardinal Glennon College in St. Louis, Kenrick Seminary in St. Louis and the Divinity School of St. Louis University. He was ordained June 20, 1970, by Bishop Cyril Vogel at St. John the Evangelist Church in Logan.

He was assistant pastor at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Hays (1970), St. Francis Xavier Parish in Junction City (1970-73) and Sacred Heart Cathedral (1973-81). During that time he was assistant diocesan chancellor (1974), then vice chancellor (1975-81) and began serving on the marriage tribunal (1974) as an advocate.

He was pastor and member of a team ministry that served Oberlin, Selden, Leoville, New Almelo, Densmore and Logan parishes (1981), then part of the team ministry that served Herndon, Oberlin, Selden and Leoville parishes (1982-86). He also became associate judicial vicar, defender of the bond and associate judge of the tribunal in 1983. In 1986, he was sent by the diocese to earn a canonlaw degree at Catholic University of America. He returned in 1988 to continue his tribunal work. He was named judicial vicar of the tribunal in 1996.

He was chaplain at Marymount College and pastor of St. Patrick Parish in Gypsum (1988) and assistant pastor at the cathedral (1989-91). He was pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Esbon, St. Mary Parish in Smith Center and St. Theresa Parish in Mankato (1991-97) and Immaculate Conception Parish in Minneapolis and St. Mary Parish in Glasco (1997-2012). He also was pastor of St. Paul Parish in Delphos from 1997 until it was merged with Minneapolis in 2009.

He is buried in Mount Calvary Cemetery in Salina.

MARCH 12, 1952

Rev. Romanus Joseph Mattingly



Rev. Mattingly was born Aug. 29, 1881, in Zanesville, Ohio, to Sylvester and Elizabeth (Clark) Mattingly. The family moved to Kansas, and he attended schools at Kackley, Clara and Clifton. He enrolled in St. Mary College in St. Mary's and Kenrick Seminary in St. Louis. He was ordained June 11, 1909, by Archbishop John Glennon in St. Louis for the Diocese of Concordia.

He was pastor of St. Anthony Parish in Miltonvale and St. Peter Parish in Meredith (1910-12), Our Lady of Perpetual Help Cathedral in Concordia (1913-16), St. Ann Parish in Zurich (1916-28), St. Joseph Parish in Damar (1928-39) and St. Michael Parish in Chapman (1939-52).

He is buried in St. Patrick Cemetery near Chapman.

MARCH 13, 2020

Rev. (Richard) James Dallen



Rev. Dallen was born April 16, 1943, in Concordia to Vern and Clementine (Breault) Dallen. He attended St. Peter's Grade School in Aurora, Perpetual Help Grade School in Concordia, St. Francis Seminary in Victoria, St. Mary's College High School in St. Mary, Ky., St. Mary College in St. Mary, Ky. and the Theological College of Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. He was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Cyril Vogel on June 21, 1969, at Notre Dame High School in Concordia.

He was an assistant pastor at St. Andrew Parish in Abilene (1969).

He completed his Doctoral of Sacred Theology (STD) at Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. (1973). He taught at Rosemont College in Rosemont, Pa. (1975-82).

He was an assistant pastor at St. Francis Xavier Parish in Junction City (1981-82). He taught at Gonzaga University in Spokane, Wash., from 1982-2007, including six years as chairman of the Religious Studies Department. He was also a visiting professor at: LaSalle College, Philadelphia; Villanova University, Villanova, Pa.; University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Ind.; University of Portland, Portland, Ore., and was the author of 14 books.

He is buried in St. Concordia Cemetery in Concordia, Kansas.

MARCH 17, 1904

Bishop Louis Mary Fink, OSB



Bishop Fink was born June 12, 1834, in Triftersberg, Bavaria, Germany. He was professed as a brother of the Order of St. Benedict on Jan. 6, 1854. He was ordained May 28, 1857, by Bishop Joshua Young of Erie. He was named prior of St. Benedict Priory at Atchison in 1868.

Pope Pius IX named him coadjutor vicar apostolic of Kansas to Bishop John Miede on March 1, 1871. He was consecrated June 11, 1871, by Bishop Thomas Foley at St. Joseph Church in Chicago. He succeeded Bishop Miede on Nov. 18, 1874.

He was appointed bishop of Leavenworth when the state, which had been a vicariate territory, was established as a diocese. He witnessed two divisions of his diocese. The establishment of the Concordia and Wichita dioceses in 1887, and the subsequent removal of five additional counties to Concordia and 14 additional counties to Wichita in 1897.

Bishop Fink is buried in Mount Olivet Cemetery at the Sisters of Charity Motherhouse in Leavenworth.

MARCH 19, 1962

Rev. Charles H. Weber



Rev. Weber was born Feb. 27, 1875, in Olvenstedt, Germany, to George and Emilie (Rittmeyer, also spelled Rittmeier, Rithmeier) Weber. He attended college in Holland, then came to St. Meinrad Seminary in Indiana. He was ordained for the Diocese of Concordia on May 24, 1902.

He was pastor of St. Anthony Parish in St. Peter (1902-21), St. Mary, Help of Christians Parish in Gorham (1921-31) and Sacred Heart Parish in Colby (1931-38).

He retired because of health problems and moved to the Diocese of Corpus Christi. He returned to Salina in 1954 and was a resident of St. John Hospital until his death. He is buried in St. Peter Cemetery in St. Peter.

Four of his brothers also were priests. Rev. Clement Weber and Rev. George Weber were priests of the Diocese of Concordia (later Salina). Msgr. Adolph Weber served in Germany and Rev. Joseph Weber, a Divine Word priest, served in Argentina.

MARCH 20, 1893

Rev. Aloysius Meili



Rev. Meili was born March 8, 1840, in Zurich, Switzerland. He attended the University of Zurich and came to the United States in 1865. He was a convert and entered St. Mary Seminary in Cincinnati. He was ordained to the priesthood Feb. 27, 1870, in Fort Wayne, Ind.

He served in parishes in Indiana and Ohio, then came to Kansas, where he served in Marshall County and Marysville.

He came to Clay Center in June 1886 as pastor of SS. Peter and Paul Parish. A new church was constructed in 1891. He died in Clay Center of tuberculosis and is buried in the Catholic section of Greenwood Cemetery in Clay Center, where a monument was erected in his honor.

MARCH 21, 1981

Rev. Paul Meitl



Rev. Meitl was born Oct. 29, 1914, in Leoville to Frank and Mary (Heim) Meitl. He attended local schools and St. Joseph Military Academy in Hays. He entered St. Louis Preparatory Seminary and then Kenrick Seminary in St. Louis. He was ordained by Bishop Frank Thill on June 7, 1941, at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Cathedral in Concordia.

He was assistant pastor at St. John the Baptist Parish in Hanover (1941-43), Sacred Heart Parish in Park (1943-45), St. Aloysius Gonzaga Parish in Osborne, with a mission in Claudell (1945) and Sacred Heart Cathedral in Salina (1945-47).

He was pastor of SS. Peter and Paul Parish in Cawker City, with missions in Claudell and Downs (1947-60), Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Good- land (1960-71), St. Paul Parish in Angelus (1971-73) and Osborne (1973-81).

He is buried in the parish cemetery in Osborne. He was a cousin of Father Roger Meitl, a priest of the Diocese of Salina.

MARCH 22, 1943

Rev. Henry Baumstimler



Rev. Baumstimler was born March 17, 1869, in St. Avoird, France, and ordained to the priesthood on March 23, 1895, in Ayaccio, Corsica. He was a member of the Dominican order in France.

The 1905 French laws on the Separation of the Churches and the State ended government support of the Church but also declared that all church buildings were property of the state. Rev. Baumstimler was among the clerics who left France in protest and came to the Diocese of Concordia. It is unclear whether he remained a Dominican.

He was pastor of St. Mary of the Assumption Parish in Clifton (1905-07), St. Aloysius Gonzaga Parish in Osborne (1907-08) and Sacred Heart Parish in Plainville (1908-43).

He is buried in Sacred Heart Cemetery in Plainville.

MARCH 24, 1905

Rev. Bernard J. Hayden

Rev. Hayden was born March 1, 1847, in County Roscommon, Ireland. He came to America in 1864 to study at St. Francis Seminary in Milwaukee. He moved to Topeka in 1866 to attend the Seminary of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin. He was ordained Nov. 11, 1869, in Columbus, Ohio.

He was pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish in Solomon (1869-71 and 1886-1905).

During his first assignment in Solomon, he served missions as far west as Kit Carson, Colo. He returned to Ireland (1871-81). He then served parishes in Leavenworth County before returning to Solomon.

He retired in 1905 and moved to Topeka, where he died. He is buried in Mount Olivet Cemetery in Leavenworth, Kansas.

A younger brother, Rev. Francis Hayden, also served as pastor of Solomon (1876-80).

MARCH 24, 1936

Rev. Francis Kulisek

Rev. Kulisek was ordained in 1885 and served as pastor of St. Isidore Parish in Cuba, with missions in Clara and Tiago, from 1885-89.

His surname also appears in diocesan records as Kulizeck and Kultzeck.

He was pastor of St. Casimir Parish in Leavenworth (1889-93), then St. Joseph Polish Parish and SS. Cyril and Methodius Parishes (1909-?) in Kansas City, Kan. He is last listed at the latter parish in 1932.

He is buried in Mount Calvary Cemetery in Kansas City, Kansas.

MARCH 25, 1990

Msgr. John Aloysius Duskie



Msgr. Duskie was born May 11, 1897, in Beloit to Lawrence and Susan (Spengler) Duskie. He attended St. John Catholic School in Beloit and St. Benedict High School in Atchison. He graduated from St. Benedict College in Atchison and studied at Kenrick Seminary in St. Louis. He later earned a canon law degree at the Catholic University of America.

Msgr. Duskie was ordained to the priesthood on Feb. 8, 1925, by Bishop Francis Tief at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Cathedral in Concordia.

He served temporary appointments at Sacred Heart Parish and St. John Hospital in Salina. He was pastor of St. Mary Parish in Jamestown (1928-45) and secretary to Bishop Tief (1928-38). He was chancellor of the diocese (1929-46) and was named a monsignor in 1934.

He served as vicar general of the diocese (1946-57) and was a member of the board of consultors.

He was rector of Sacred Heart Cathedral in Salina (1946-68). He was appointed a year after the see of the diocese was moved from Concordia to Salina and oversaw the fund drive and construction of the new cathedral. Likewise, he had a role in the construction of the new Sacred Heart Junior-Senior High School in 1965, which followed the founding of St. Mary, Queen of the Universe Parish in 1959.

He was chaplain of St. Joseph Hospital in Concordia (1968-78) and St. Mary Convent in Concordia (1978- 87). He moved in 1987 to Mount Joseph Rest Home, where he died March 25, 1990.

He is buried in St. John Cemetery in Beloit.

MARCH 26, 1930

Rev. Karel Dragoun



Rev. Dragoun (his first name also is published as Karol and Charles) was born Oct. 30, 1861, in Kojetein, Moravia, and was ordained for the Diocese of Leavenworth on June 29, 1885, in Louvain Seminary Chapel. He had studied for the priesthood in Olmitz, Moravia, and Louvain, Belgium.

His first assignment in 1885 was as the first resident pastor of St. Wenceslaus Parish in Wilson. A parishioner had written Leavenworth Bishop Louis Fink asking for a priest who could speak German, Bohemian and English, reflecting the mix of immigrants who had settled in the town. The bishop replied he could not find such a priest, although he would send a Czech speaking priest as soon as one who was attending seminary was ordained. Rev. Dragoun did not speak German nor English well, and those parishioners, somewhat disgruntled, asked to form their own parish in Dorrance.

Rev. Dragoun served in Wilson until 1895, when he was assigned to St. Isidore Parish in Cuba, another Czech settlement. He served there until 1907, when the Cuba parish history reports he was in ill health and moved to Iowa, where he died.

He is buried in St. John's Cemetery in Atkinson, Iowa.

MARCH 26, 2017

Rev. August Moeder



Rev. August Moeder was born May 27, 1927 in rural Barton County to August and Frances (Steiner) Moeder. He attended Selden Public C Grade School in Leoville, Leoville High School for one year, then Conception Minor Seminary in Conception, Mo. He entered college seminary at Conception Seminary and received his bachelor's in philosophy. He graduated from Kenrick Seminary in St. Louis. He was ordained Feb. 28, 1953 by Bishop Frank Thill at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Salina.

He was Parochial vicar at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Concordia (1953), parochial vicar at St. Paul Parish in Delphos (1953), parochial vicar at St. Mary Parish in Jamestown (1955). He was also the parochial vicar at St. John the Baptist Parish in Clyde, with mission parishes SS. Peter and Paul Parish in Morrowville and St. Isidore Parish in Cuba (1957). He was the administrator of St. Anthony Parish in St. Peter (1958), parochial vicar, then administrator at SS. Philip and James Parish in Phillipsburg, St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Norton and Chaplain Norton State Tuberculosis Sanatorium in Norton (1959), and administrator of St. Anthony Parish in Miltonvale and St. Peter Parish in Meredith (1960). He was the Deanery Moderator of Council of Catholic Men for Concordia Deanery (1961).

He was the pastor of St. Edward Parish in Belleville and administrator of St. George Parish in Munden (1963-1970). In 1965-66, he built the CCD center at the parish in Belleville. He was the pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Park (1970-74). In 1972, he renovated the church. He was the parochial vicar at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Goodland (1974-76) and administrator of SS. Philip and James Parish in Phillipsburg (1976-78). He was the pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Esbon and St. Francis Parish in Claudell (1978-80), the pastor of Holy Ghost Parish in Sharon Springs and St. Peter Parish in Wallace (1980-90). In 1985, he was the Moderator of Church Community Affairs and SDCCW. He was the pastor of St. Michael Parish in Collyer and St. Anthony Parish in St. Peter (1990-93). He retired to Quinter in 1993. He is buried in Sacred Heart Cemetery in Park.

MARCH 30, 2001

Rev. Christopher Conklin



Rev. Conklin was born Nov. 6, 1944, in Abilene to Dr. Kenneth and Helen (Curry) Conklin. He studied at St. Thomas Seminary in Denver and was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Cyril Vogel on June 9, 1973, in Abilene.

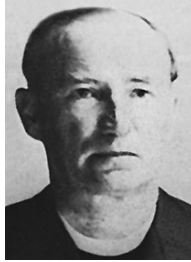
He was an assistant pastor at Seven Dolores Parish in Manhattan (1973-75) and St. Francis Xavier Parish in Junction City (1975- 76). He was administrator of St. Phillip Parish in Hope and St. Columba Parish in Elmo (1976-79), chaplain at St. Joseph Hospital and Mount St. Joseph Nursing Home in Concordia (1979-80), assistant pastor at St. Andrew Parish in Abilene (1980-81) and assistant at Seven Dolores in Manhattan (1981-82).

He was pastor of St. Ignatius Loyola Parish in Kanopolis, St. Mary Parish in Holyrood and St. Joseph Parish in Brookville (1982-84), pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Damar (1984-89), assistant at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Concordia (1989-92) and pastor of St. Peter Parish in Aurora and St. Mary Parish in Glasco, as well as chaplain for St. Mary Convent in Concordia (1992-94).

Rev. Conklin retired in 1994 for medical reasons and lived in Concordia until his death. He is buried in Mount St. Joseph Cemetery in Abilene.

APRIL 3, 1914

Rev. John H. Loevenich



Rev. Loevenich was born Oct. 23, 1852, in Stuerzelberg, Germany. He attended the American College of Louvain in Belgium and was ordained for the Diocese of Leavenworth on June 7, 1879. He was pastor of parishes in Cawker City and Tipton (1880) and Clay Center, with missions in Clara, Clifton, Cuba, Kimeo, Washington and Riley (1881-83).

He was pastor of Rock Creek, Wamego and Indian Creek parishes until 1886, when he was sent to Wichita to organize St. Boniface Parish for German speaking Catholics. He later served in Ost, Aleppo and Andale, where he built churches. He died in Andale two years after retiring and is buried in the parish cemetery in Andale.

APRIL 3, 1923

Rev. Thomas Tuite



Rev. Tuite was born March 13, 1879, in Ireland and studied at Carlow College in Ireland. He was ordained May 24, 1902, in Carlow for the Diocese of Concordia. He was the first resident pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Greenleaf, with missions at Coon Creek and Palmer (1903-06), and St. Francis of Assisi in Norton (1907-23). He served as state chaplain of the Knights of Columbus.

He died at the age of 44 and is buried in Mount Calvary Cemetery in Salina.

APRIL 3, 1929

Rev. John Christian Volke

Rev. Volke was born July 13, 1879, to Christian and Katherine (Kramer) Volke in Baltimore. He attended St. Vincent Seminary in Beatty, Pa., and was ordained for the Diocese of Concordia on July 4, 1906.

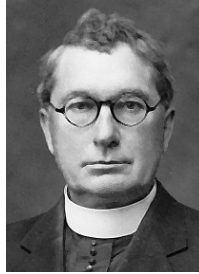
He was an assistant pastor at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Concordia (1908-09).

He was pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish in Minneapolis (1912-13), St. Aloysius Parish in Lanham (1914-18), Sacred Heart Parish in Esbon (1919-21), Sacred Heart Parish in Niles (1922-25) and St. Mary Parish in Russell (1926-29).

He is buried in New Cathedral Cemetery in Baltimore.

APRIL 4, 1976

Rev. Clement Weber



Rev. Weber was born April 5, 1886, in Magdeburg, Germany, to George and Emilie (Rittmeyer, also spelled Rittmeier, Rithmeier) Weber. Four of his six brothers also became priests, with two of them serving in the Diocese of Concordia and Salina — Rev. George and Rev. Charles. After the death of their eldest brother, Rev. Adolph Weber in Germany, the parents came to live with Rev. Clement in Wilson, Clay Center and Selden, where they died. The fourth brother, Rev. Joseph, was a Divine Word missionary in Argentina.

Rev. Weber came to the United States in 1905 and entered the seminary. He was ordained with his brother, Rev. George, on May 21, 1910, at St. Meinrad Abbey in Indiana for the Diocese of Concordia.

He was pastor of St. Wenceslaus Parish in Wilson (1910-28), SS. Peter and Paul Parish in Clay Center (1928-30), Sacred Heart Parish in Selden and St. Martin of Tours Parish in Seguin (1930-40), Sacred Heart Parish in Park (1940-49) and St. Mary of the Assumption Parish in Clifton (1949-63). He retired and lived in Clifton until his death 13 years later. He is buried in the Belleville Cemetery.

Rev. Weber oversaw the rebuilding of two churches destroyed in disasters. The Wilson church and rectory were destroyed by fire five months before his arrival, and the Seguin church had been destroyed by a tornado in 1925, five years before his appointment there.

APRIL 4, 1993

Rev. Stephen J. Letourneau



Rev. Letourneau was born Jan. 28, 1942, in Concordia to Joseph and Harriette (Hakes) Letourneau of rural Aurora. He attended local parochial school, then St. Francis Preparatory Seminary in Victoria. He graduated from Conception Seminary College and Conception Seminary in Conception, Mo., and received a master's degree in counseling from Kansas State University. He was ordained June 1, 1968, by Bishop Cyril Vogel at St. Peter Church in Aurora.

He was an assistant pastor at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Hays (1968), Sacred Heart Parish in Colby (1968-69), St. Mary, Queen of the Universe Parish in Salina (1969-72) and Immaculate Heart of Mary in Hays (1972-73).

He was pastor of St. Phillip Parish in Hope and St. Columba Parish in Elmo (1973-76), chaplain at Marymount College in Salina (1976-80) and chaplain and director of pastoral care at St. Joseph Hospital in Concordia (1980-87). He also served the Jamestown parish while in Concordia. He was chaplain and director of pastoral care and later assistant administrator for mission effectiveness at St. John Hospital in Salina and pastor of St. Patrick Parish in Gypsum (1987-93). He also served as diocesan director of pro-life.

He was killed in an automobile accident returning to Salina from Gypsum. He is buried in St. Peter Cemetery in Aurora.

APRIL 5, 2022

Rev. James (Jim) Hoover



Rev. Father James (Jim) Hoover was born May 13, 1934, in Junction City to Laurence and Josephine (Casper) Hoover. He attended school at St. Francis Xavier grade school and high school, completing high school at St. Louis Preparatory Seminary in St. Louis. (B.A. from Marymount College, Salina, 1964) He attended seminary at Kenrick Seminary in St. Louis. He was ordained April 2, 1960, by Bishop Frederick Freking at St. Francis Xavier Church in Junction City.

His parish assignments included Sacred Heart Cathedral in Salina, St. John the Baptist Parish in Beloit, St. Theresa Parish in Mankato and pastoral administrator at St. Francis Parish in Claudel, St. Bernard Parish in Ellsworth, St. Mary, Queen of the Universe Parish in Salina, St. Boniface Parish in Tipton and St. Mary Parish in Downs, Sacred Heart Parish in Selden, Immaculate Conception Parish in Leoville and sacramental minister at Sacred Heart Parish in Oberlin, St. John the Baptist Parish in Hanover and Sacred Heart Parish in Greenleaf. Sacramental minister of St. Augustine Parish in Washington and Ss. Peter and Paul in Morrowville, St. Wenceslaus Parish in Wilson, St. Mary Parish in Holyrood and St. Joseph Parish in Dorrance. He retired in 2011 and he continued to serve the diocese as the Chaplain of the Sisters of St. Joseph Nazareth Mother House in Concordia, Kan., until 2019.

In addition to his parish assignments, Father Hoover had nearly four decades of experience in education. He received his master's in religious education from Creighton University in 1970. He began his education career in the diocese by teaching at both the public and Catholic high schools in Beloit. From 1963-66, he led local efforts to establish the North Central Vocational Technical College, which is now called North Central College in Beloit. Also in 1963, he served as the CYO Diocesan Director.

He also taught in the public school in Mankato, where he served as pastor of St. Theresa Parish. In addition to being in the classroom, he served for nearly a decade as Superintendent of Catholic Schools. While superintendent, he was also appointed as the director of religious education. He is buried in St. Mary's Cemetery in Junction City.

APRIL 7, 1933

Rev. Thomas O'Reilly



Rev. O'Reilly was born June 1, 1873. He was ordained June 24, 1898. He was pastor of St. Columba Parish in Elmo (1899-1910) and St. Andrew Parish in Abilene (1910-30). He retired after suffering a stroke.

He is buried in Mount St. Joseph Cemetery in Abilene.

APRIL 9, 1936

Rev. William Wenzel

Rev. Wenzel was born Sept. 14, 1865, in Ruestungen, Germany. He was ordained June 13, 1890, for the Diocese of Concordia after attending Mount St. Mary Seminary in Cincinnati.

He was pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Norton (1890-92), St. Boniface Parish in Tipton (1893-96), Assumption of Mary Parish in Herndon (1897-1908), St. Mary of the Assumption Parish in Clifton (1910), St. Anthony Parish in Schoenchen (1911-16), Sacred Heart Parish in Park (1917-25), St. Paul Parish in Angelus (1926-27) and Sacred Heart Parish in Colby (1928-30).

He retired to Beloit. He is buried in St. John Cemetery in Beloit.

APRIL 16, 1900

Rev. John F. Lee

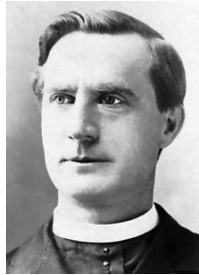
Rev. Lee was pastor of Seven Dolores Parish in Manhattan and its missions in McDowell Creek and Ogden (1887-90).

Previously, he was pastor of St. Paul Parish in Olathe and chaplain of St. Vincent Orphan Asylum in Leavenworth (1886). After leaving Manhattan, he was pastor of St. Thomas Apostle Parish in Armourdale, now part of Kansas City, Kan. (1891-95).

He is buried in Saint Mary's Cemetery in Junction City, Kansas.

APRIL 16, 1936

Rev. Daniel Horgan



Rev. Horgan was born June 18, 1844, in County Cork, Ireland, to Cornelius and Honora (Ring) Horgan. He emigrated to the United States as a young man and served in the Confederate Army during the Civil War.

He was ordained June 21, 1891, by Wichita Bishop John Hennessy for the Diocese of Concordia. He served parishes in Wichita and Wellington in the Wichita Diocese.

He was pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Norton (then known as the Nativity of our Lord Parish) with missions in Colby, Esbon, Goodland, Oakley, Oberlin, Elkader (Logan County) and Wallace (1893- 98), St. Michael Parish in Kimeo (1899-1900), SS. Peter and Paul Parish in Clay Center (1900-01), St. Paul Parish in Delphos (1902), St. Andrew Parish in Abilene (1903), St. Francis Xavier Parish in Junction City (1904-05), St. Andrew in Abilene (1905-10) and Immaculate Conception Parish in Solomon (1910-22).

He retired in 1922 and moved to San Diego, where he died. He is buried in Calvary Cemetery in San Diego.

APRIL 16, 1979

Rev. John W. Whitty



Rev. Whitty was born July 20, 1907, in Fall River, Mass., to Michael and Dorothy Whitty. He attended local parochial and public schools, then St. Charles Preparatory Seminary in Catonsville, Md. He completed St. Bonaventure Seminary in Allegany, N.Y., and was ordained for the Diocese of Concordia by Bishop Francis Tief on May 24, 1936.

He was assistant pastor at Sacred Heart Church and chaplain of St. John Hospital in Salina (1936-38) and assistant pastor at St. Peter Parish in Aurora and missions in Miltonvale and Meredith (1938-39).

He was pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Oberlin and SS. Philip and James Parish in Phillipsburg (1939-43), St. Patrick Parish in Lincoln and its mission in Vesper (1943-46), St. Patrick Parish in Ogden and its mission in McDowell Creek (1946-64), St. Mary, Help of Christians Parish in Gorham (1964-68) and St. Anthony Parish in Schoenchen (1968-78).

He retired in 1978. He is buried in the parish cemetery in Schoenchen.

APRIL 17, 2003

Rev. Bradley Jay Sterrett



Rev. Sterrett was born Oct. 25, 1957, in Downs to Raymond and Mary (Comeau) Sterrett. He graduated from Norton High School and attended the University of Kansas before studying at Pontifical College Josephinum in Ohio and Pontifical Gregorian University and Pontifical Angelicum University, both in Rome. He earned an M.B.A. from Fort Hays State University in 1990. He was ordained July 20, 1985, by Bishop George Fitzsimons at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Norton.

He was an assistant pastor at Seven Dolors Parish in Manhattan (1985-88) and at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Hays (1988-91).

He served as director of diocesan and alumni associations for Pontifical College Josephinum in Ohio (1991- 95) before returning to the diocese as campus minister at St. Isidore Catholic Student Center at Kansas State University.

He was granted a leave of absence in 1997. He was working as a fundraiser for Boston University at its Chicago office when he was murdered April 17, 2003. He is buried in Norton Cemetery.

APRIL 25, 1986

Rev. John Joseph Vandenberghe



Rev. Vandenberghe was born June 19, 1916, in St. Joseph, Mo., to Joseph and Maria (DeLanghe) Vandenberghe. He attended Maur Hill and St. Benedict High School in Atchison, St. Benedict College in Atchison, Conception Seminary College in Conception, Mo., and Kenrick Seminary in St. Louis. He was ordained for the Diocese of St. Joseph on May 30, 1942. He served in St. Joseph, Perry, Trenton, New London, Salisbury and St. Patrick's, Mo., becoming part of the new Diocese of Jefferson City, Mo., in 1958. He requested to be loaned to the Diocese of Salina, although he never was formally incardinated..

He was pastor of St. Patrick Parish in Lincoln (1958- 61), St. Aloysius Gonzaga Parish in Osborne (1961-66), St. Paul Parish in Angelus (1966-68), Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Concordia (1968-70), St. John the Baptist Parish in Hanover (1970-76), Sacred Heart Parish in Greenleaf and St. Michael Parish in Kimeo (1972-76), St. Edward Parish in Belleville and St. George Parish in Munden (1976-78) and SS. Peter and Paul Parish in Cawker City and St. Mary Parish in Downs (1978-79).

He retired in 1979 to Santa Fe., N.M., where he died. He is buried in the cathedral cemetery in Santa Fe.

APRIL 27, 2010

Rev. Ralph Lee Aschenbrenner



Rev. Aschenbrenner was born Oct. 1, 1935, on a farm near Colby to Philip and Rose (Schuster) Aschenbrenner, immigrants from Austria. He attended public grade school in Colby, Conception Seminary High School and Conception Seminary College in Conception, Mo., and Kenrick Seminary in St. Louis. He was ordained by Bishop Frederick Freking on March 18, 1961, at Sacred Heart Church in Colby.

He was assigned to temporary appointments at St. Ann Parish in Zurich, St. Edward Parish in Belleville and St. George Parish in Munden, then served as an assistant at Seven Dolors Parish in Manhattan (1961-66).

He was administrator of SS. Philip and James Parish in Phillipsburg (1966-68), St. Aloysius Gonzaga Parish in Osborne (1968) and Sacred Heart Parish in Green-leaf, St. Michael Parish in Kimeo, St. Augustine Parish in Washington and SS. Peter and Paul in Morrowville (1969-70). He was pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish in Minneapolis and St. Paul Parish in Delphos (1971-85), Immaculate Conception Parish in Solomon and Sacred Heart Parish in Niles (1985-89), St. Patrick Parish in Lincoln and St. Mary Parish in Glasco (1989- 2001) and St. Edward Parish in Belleville, St. George Parish in Munden and St. Isidore Parish in Cuba (2001-07).

He retired July 1, 2007, and moved to the Catholic Care Center in Bel Aire. He is buried in Sacred Heart Cemetery in Colby.

Rev. Aschenbrenner was appointed to the Marriage Tribunal office in 1974 at the age of 39 and worked in the Tribunal until his retirement.

MAY 1, 1959

Msgr. Carl Bernard Engbarth



Msgr. Engbarth was born Dec. 29, 1901, in Adrian, Minn., to John and Mary (Martini) Engbarth. He attended local grade school, then high school and college at St. Mary College in Winona, Minn. He attended St. Paul Seminary in St. Paul, Minn., then St. Thomas Seminary in Denver. He was ordained May 1, 1932, by Bishop Francis Tief at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Cathedral in Concordia.

He was an assistant pastor at Sacred Heart Parish in Salina (1932-39) and chaplain at St. John Hospital in Salina (1932-33). He was pastor of St. Michael Parish in Collyer and its mission of Christ the King in WaKeeney (1939-59), with the mission of Immaculate Heart of Mary in Hill City added (1951-59).

He was named a monsignor in 1956. He was one of two diocesan representatives to travel to Rome in 1957 for the consecration of Salina Bishop Frederick Freking at North American College.

Msgr. Engbarth oversaw the construction of St. Michael Church in Collyer in 1941 and its rectory in 1947. Both were constructed of native stone from a quarry purchased by the parish and quarried by parishioners. Msgr. Engbarth served as foreman, parishioners provided the labor, and the church was built for just \$60,000. He also oversaw construction of Christ the King Church in WaKeeney in 1950, and its new rectory was under construction at the time of his death.

He died on the 27th anniversary of his ordination after undergoing colon surgery. He is buried in the parish cemetery at Collyer.

MAY 7, 2001

Msgr. Alfred Jerome Wasinger



Msgr. Wasinger was born Aug. 21, 1918, near Schoenchen to Aloysius and Veronica (Zimmerman) Wasinger. He attended the last three years of high school at Conception, Mo., then enrolled at Conception Seminary College. He completed seminary training at Kenrick Seminary in St. Louis. He was ordained Feb. 13, 1944, by Bishop Frank Thill at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Cathedral in Concordia.

He was an assistant pastor at St. John the Baptist Parish in Clyde and SS. Peter and Paul Parish at Morrowville (1944-51) and Sacred Heart Cathedral in Salina (1951-52.) He was pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish in Minneapolis (1952-58).

He was named director in 1959 of the newly founded Catholic Charities. He also directed St. Joseph Home in Abilene and then, after it was closed, St. Joseph Children's Home in Salina.

He was named a monsignor in 1963.

While directing Catholic Charities, he also was pastor of Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in Salina (1959- 66), St. Andrew Parish in Abilene (1966-81), St. Paul Parish in Glasco and St. Peter Parish in Meredith (1982-85), St. Peter Parish in Aurora and St. Peter Parish in Meredith (1985-92) and St. Joseph Parish in Brookville (1992-93).

Msgr. Wasinger retired from Catholic Charities in 1993 and was named chaplain of Nazareth Motherhouse in Concordia. He retired from that appointment in 1997 but continued to live at the Motherhouse until his death. He is buried in the parish cemetery in Schoenchen.

MAY 8, 1927

Rev. John O'Brien



Rev. O'Brien was born May 19, 1875, in County Clare, Ireland, and attended All Hallows College in Dublin. He was ordained to the priesthood on June 24, 1900, in Dublin for the Diocese of Concordia and was adopted by Wichita Bishop John Hennessey, who was apostolic administrator of Concordia.

He was pastor of St. Aloysius Parish in Lanham (1900-04) and St. Francis Xavier Parish in Junction (1904-27). During his tenure in Junction City, a new church was completed in 1906, the old church was converted into a grade school and a high school was begun in the converted sacristy. A rectory and convent also were built. A new grade was opened in 1920, and the old grade school was converted to a high school.

He is buried in St. Mary Cemetery in Junction City. Rev. O'Brien was held in such high esteem that all of the city's businesses were reported to have closed for the funeral Mass.

MAY 11, 1961

Msgr. Francis George Riedel



Msgr. Riedel was born April 14, 1886, near Tipton to Franz and Johanna (Wanitschka) Riedel. He attended local schools, then Conception Seminary College in Conception, Mo., and St. Francis Seminary in St. Francis, Wis. He was ordained March 10, 1912, in Wisconsin.

He served temporary appointments at St. Boniface Parish in Tipton, Sacred Heart Parish in Salina, Sacred Heart Parish in Greenleaf and St. Mary, Help of Christians Parish in Gorham (1912-14).

He was pastor of St. John the Evangelist Parish in Logan and its missions in Densmore and Claudell and its stations in Long Island and Stuttgart (1914-32) and pastor of St. Anthony Parish in Schoenchen (1932-61).

He was named a monsignor in 1956.

Msgr. Riedel was killed in an automobile accident near Oakley; he was a passenger in a car driven by Msgr. John Wolf of Grinnell, who survived.

He is buried in St. Boniface Cemetery in Tipton.

MAY 12, 1940

Msgr. John Maher



Msgr. Maher was born Nov. 13, 1869, in County Cork, Ireland, to William and Catherine (Tuohy) Maher. He attended local schools, then St. Colman College in Ireland and the Grand Seminaire in Chambéry, Savoie, France. He emigrated to America and was ordained on Sept. 10, 1893, by Bishop John Hennessey in Wichita, apostolic administrator for the Diocese of Concordia.

He was pastor in Newton and Fort Scott. When Bishop John Cunningham was appointed bishop of Concordia, Father Maher was transferred to this diocese.

He was pastor at St. John the Baptist Parish in Clyde (1899-1901) and Sacred Heart Parish in Salina (1901-39).

During his tenure in Salina, he completed the building of a new church and constructed a new grade school building, a new convent, a new high school building and a high school addition. He was involved in the construction of a new hospital and Marymount College, both owned and operated by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Concordia.

He was named vicar general in 1915. He served as diocesan administrator after the death of Bishop Cunningham in 1919 until the appointment of Bishop Francis Tief in 1920. He was named a monsignor in 1925.

His retirement from Sacred Heart Parish in 1939 drew 2,500 people to a farewell party at the Lamer Hotel. He planned to retire to Ireland but delayed his trip because of the uncertainties at the start of World War II.

He died at his niece's home in New York City. He is buried in Cork Parochial Cemetery in Ireland.

MAY 16, 1963

Msgr. James McErlean



Msgr. McErlean was born Aug. 9, 1882, in Dumbarton, Scotland, to Hugh and Margaret (Mulholland) McErlean. He attended St. Mary College in Aberdeen, Scotland, and St. Peter College in Glasgow, Scotland. He completed seminary at St. Patrick College in Carlow, Ireland, and was ordained June 12, 1910, at Carlow for the Diocese of Concordia.

He served in the Diocese of Wichita from 1910 to 1913. He was pastor of St. Paul Parish in Delphos and its mission in Glasco (1913-24), St. John the Evangelist Parish in Herington and its mission in Hope (1924-25) and SS. Peter and Paul Parish in Clay Center (1926-27). He was rector of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Cathedral in Concordia (1928-45) and then pastor of the Concordia parish after the see was moved to Salina from 1945 until his retirement in 1947.

He was named a monsignor in 1944.

He retired to El Paso, Texas, for about 10 years, then returned to Concordia. He is buried in St. Concordia Cemetery in Concordia.

MAY 17, 1944

Rev. James McKenna



Rev. McKenna was born Nov. 25, 1881, in County Monaghan, Ireland, to Edward and Anne McKenna. He attended St. Patrick College in Carlow, Ireland, and was ordained June 13, 1909, by Bishop Patrick Foley at St. Patrick Cathedral in Carlow for the Diocese of Concordia. He was assistant pastor of SS. Peter and Paul Parish in Clay Center (1909) and St. Mary Parish in Russell (1909-25).

He was pastor of St. Edward Parish in Belleville, with missions in Cuba and Munden (1925-44).

He is buried in St. Concordia Cemetery in Concordia

MAY 17, 1961

Rev. Michael Barrins



Rev. Barrins was born Sept. 10, 1901, in County Sligo, Ireland, to Michael and Belinda Barrins. He was ordained to the priesthood on June 3, 1926, at St. Peter College in Wexford, Ireland, for the Diocese of Concordia.

He was an assistant at Sacred Heart Church in Salina (1926-27). He was pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Esbon, with missions in Jewell City and Formoso (1927-58) and pastor of St. Aloysius Gonzaga Parish in Osborne (1958-61). He worked to form the new parish of St. Theresa in Mankato, which was founded in 1958.

Three of his sisters came to the diocese and became Sisters of St. Joseph of Concordia — Sister Mary Virgilia, Sister Mary Victorine and Sisters Mary Kathleen.

He is buried in St. Concordia Cemetery in Concordia.

MAY 21, 1957

Bishop Frank A. Thill



Bishop Thill was born Oct. 12, 1893, in Dayton, Ohio, to Bernard and Margaret (Schele) Thill. He studied at Mount St. Mary Seminary of the West in Norwood, where he organized the Catholic Students' Mission Crusade. He was ordained Feb. 28, 1920, by Cincinnati Archbishop Henry Moeller and sent to study at Collegio Angelico in Rome. He was named chancellor of the Cincinnati Archdiocese in 1935 and a monsignor in 1937.

He was appointed bishop of Salina on Aug. 24, 1938, and consecrated Oct. 28, 1938, at the Cathedral of St. Monica in Cincinnati. He was installed at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Cathedral in Concordia on Nov. 15, 1938.

Bishop Thill requested that the see of the diocese be moved to Salina, and that was granted by Pope Pius XII. The decree was executed March 12, 1945.

Bishop Thill died in office and is buried in Mount Calvary Cemetery in Salina.

MAY 22, 2015

Rev. Lawrence Grennan



Rev. Grennan was born Nov. 19, 1940, in Ionia in southwest Jewell County to Frank and Margaret Grennan. He graduated from Jewell Rural High School and earned a philosophy degree from St. Benedict College in Atchison and a theological degree from Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. He later earned a master's degree in divinity from Creighton University.

He was ordained May 28, 1966, by Bishop Cyril Vogel at St. Theresa Church in Mankato.

He was parochial vicar at St. Mary, Queen of the Universe Parish in Salina (1966-69), Sacred Heart Parish in Colby (1969-71) and Seven Dolores Parish in Manhattan (1971-73).

He was pastor of St. Patrick Parish in Ogden (1973-75), St. Joseph Parish in New Almelo and Immaculate Conception Parish in Leoville as part of the Northwest Kansas Team Ministry project (1975-80), St. Phillip Parish in Hope and St. Columba Parish in Elmo (1980-84), St. Patrick Parish in Lincoln (1984-88), St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Salina (1988-93), Seven Dolores Parish in Manhattan (1993-2005) and SS. Peter and Paul Parish in Clay Center and St. Anthony Parish in Miltonvale (2005-14) until his retirement to Ogden.

He also oversaw religious education and catechism training as diocesan coordinator of religious education in the 1980s. After a sabbatical at

MAY 23, 1901

Rev. Prosper Maurer



Rev. Maurer was born Oct. 15, 1844, in Alsace-Lorraine, France, and studied at a seminary in Strasbourg. He came to the United States in 1865 and settled in St. Paul, Minn., where he continued his studies. He was ordained April 20, 1867, by Bishop Thomas Grace and appointed to serve 18 missions surrounding Dayton, Minn. He requested a move south because of ill health and was allowed to transfer to the Diocese of Leavenworth.

He was pastor at St. Mark Parish in Sedgwick County in 1880, then arrived as the second resident pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Salina in 1881.

During his 20 years in Salina, a new school and rectory were built, and a new church was under construction when he died. Rev. Maurer had traveled to Wilson and died at the train depot while planning to return to Salina.

He is buried in Mount Calvary Cemetery in Salina. A memorial crucifix was erected by the parish in 1906 in his memory.

MAY 27, 1959

Rev. Richard William Eilert



Rev. Eilert was born March 12, 1924, in Beloit to Anthony and Anna Marie (Budke) Eilert. He attended rural grade school in Mitchell County, then St. John Catholic High School in Beloit and St. Louis Preparatory Seminary. He attended St. Gregory Seminary and Mount St. Mary of the West in Cincinnati. He was ordained May 28, 1950, by Bishop Frank Thill at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Salina.

He earned a Doctor of Sacred Theology at the Angelicum in Rome in 1952.

On his return to Salina, he was appointed pro-chancellor of the diocese and assistant pastor at Sacred Heart Cathedral. In 1957, he was selected as one of two diocesan representatives to attend the consecration of Bishop Frederick Freking on Nov. 30 at North American College in Rome. He was appointed chancellor in 1958 and pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Niles in 1959. He held several positions in the marriage tribunal, beginning in 1954. He had served as official master of ceremonies since 1953. He taught religion at Mary-mount College (1952-58).

Rev. Eilert died suddenly of an apparent brain aneurism in his study at the cathedral rectory at the age of 35.

He is buried in Mount Calvary Cemetery in Salina.

MAY 29, 2004

Rev. Maurice Bruno Dion



Rev. Dion was born Jan. 17, 1917, in Manchester, N.H., to Cleophas and Clara (Mailhot) Dion. He attended Maryknoll Seminary in Maryknoll N.Y., and completed studies at Kenrick Seminary in St. Louis. He was ordained by St. Louis Archbishop John Glennon for the Diocese of Concordia on June 4, 1944, at Kenrick Seminary Chapel.

He was an assistant pastor at St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Norton (1944-47) and St. Peter Parish in Aurora (1947-50).

He was pastor of St. Anthony Parish in Miltonvale and St. Peter Parish in Meredith (1950-60), St. John the Baptist Parish in Clyde (1960-66), Immaculate Conception Parish in Leoville (1966-70), St. Edward in Belleville and St. George in Munden (1970-76), St. John the Baptist in Hanover (1976-80) and SS. Peter and Paul Parish in Clay Center (1980-82).

He retired in 1982 to Hanover, where he died. He is buried in St. John Cemetery in Hanover.

MAY 30, 2017

Archbishop Daniel Kucera, O.S.B.



Archbishop Daniel William Kucera was born May 7, 1923, in Chicago, Ill. to Joseph and Lillian (Petrzelka) Kucera, and given the name William. He was educated at St. Procopius Academy (now Benet Academy) and St. Procopius College (now Benedictine University) in Lisle, Ill.

He entered St. Procopius Abbey and received the religious name of Daniel when he professed religious vows as a Benedictine monk on June 16, 1944. On May 26, 1949, he was ordained a priest by Bishop Martin McNamara at the Cathedral of St. Raymond Nonnatus in Joliet, Ill. He earned a doctorate in education from The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. in 1954. He served in various administrative positions at St. Procopius College until he was named the college's president in 1959. On July 8, 1964, he was elected Abbot of St. Procopius Abbey and received his abbatial blessing on Aug. 19, 1964, from Albert Cardinal Meyer at the Cathedral of St. Raymond Nonnatus in Joliet. He served as abbot until June 1, 1971, when he resigned to become the college's president again.

On June 6, 1977, Pope Paul VI named Abbot Daniel titular bishop of Natchez, Miss. and Auxiliary Bishop of Joliet. He was ordained a bishop by Bishop Romeo Blanchette on July 21, 1977, at the Cathedral of St. Raymond Nonnatus, with Bishops Andrew Grutka of Gary and Raymond Vonesh as primary coconsecrators. He chose as his episcopal motto *Benedicite Domino* (Bless the Lord). As auxiliary bishop, he served as Vicar General and Vicar for Clergy. After the resignation of Bishop Romeo Blanchette in January of 1979, Bishop Kucera was named Apostolic Administrator and served until the appointment of Bishop Joseph Imesch in June

On March 5, 1980, Pope John Paul II appointed Bishop Kucera the eighth Bishop of Salina. He was installed in Sacred Heart Cathedral on May 7, 1980, by Archbishop Ignatius Strecker of Kansas City in Kansas. On Dec.20, 1983, Pope John Paul II appointed Bishop Kucera the tenth Bishop and eighth Archbishop of Dubuque, Iowa. He was installed as archbishop on Feb. 23, 1984, at the Five Flags Civic Center in Dubuque. He served on several committees of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and was elected treasurer of the Conference from 1987-1990 and 1992-1993.

On Oct. 16, 1995, Pope John Paul II accepted Archbishop Kucera's resignation. He continued to reside in Dubuque until his death on May 30, 2017, at Stonehill Care Center in Dubuque at the age of 94.

He is buried in the St. Procopius Abbey cemetery in Lisle, Ill.

MAY 31, 1999

Rev. Herbert Carl Kuhn



Rev. Kuhn was born May 23, 1922, in St. Peter to Joseph and Barbara (Riedel) Kuhn. He attended local schools. He served in the U.S. Army in the Pacific Theater during World War II. He earned a degree in economics from Fort Hays State University, then attended St. John University in Collegeville, Minn., St. Benedict College in Atchison and Conception Seminary in Conception, Mo. He was ordained April 6, 1957, by Bishop Frank Thill at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Salina.

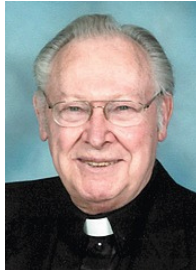
He was an assistant pastor at Seven Dolours Parish in Manhattan (1957-60) and SS. Philip and James Parish in Phillipsburg (1960).

He joined the U.S. Army chaplain corps and served in locations both stateside and overseas, including Vietnam during the war (1969-70). He retired from active duty with the rank of major in 1977. He remained at Brook Army Medical Center in Houston, where he first was stationed in 1973, as a civilian chaplain until 1987, when he moved to a retired priests home, first in San Antonio, Texas, and later in Wichita, where he died.

He is buried in the parish cemetery in St. Peter.

MAY 31, 2012

Father John Moeder



Father Moeder was born May 1, 1931, in Selden to August and Frances (Steiner) Moeder. He was the youngest of three to enter religious life.

He attended Conception Seminary High School and Conception Seminary College in Conception, Mo., and Kenrick Seminary in St. Louis and was ordained at the age of 25 on April 6, 1957, at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Salina.

His brother August was ordained four years earlier, and a sister, Sister Benedicta Moeder, was a member of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Concordia.

He was assistant pastor at Sacred Heart Parish in Plainville (1957-58), St. Andrew Parish in Abilene and St. Phillip Parish in Hope (1958-60) and Seven Dolours Parish in Manhattan (1960-61).

He was pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Esbon, St. Mary Parish in Smith Center and St. Mary Parish in Jamestown (1961-63), chaplain at Nazareth Mother-house in Concordia (1963-65), pastor of St. Anthony Parish in Miltonvale and St. Peter Parish in Meredith (1965-68), diocesan vocations director (1965-71), and pastor at Sacred Heart in Plainville (1968-71), Seven Dolours in Manhattan and St. Joseph Parish in McDowell Creek (1971-81), St. Andrew in Abilene (1981-90) and St. Edward Parish in Belleville, St. George Parish in Munden and St. Isidore Parish in Cuba (1990-2001). He served 33 years as chaplain of the state Elks organization and as national chaplain (1976-79). He retired to Abilene in 2001.

He is buried in Mount St. Joseph Cemetery in Abilene.

JUNE 3, 1999

Msgr. Adolph Hecker



Msgr. Hecker was born Feb. 15, 1910, in Park to John and Mary (Herzog) Hecker. He attended local schools, then Conception Seminary High School and College in Conception, Mo., and St. Thomas Seminary in Denver. He was ordained May 18, 1940, by Bishop Frank Thill at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Cathedral in Concordia.

He was assistant pastor at St. Peter Parish in Aurora, with missions in Miltonvale and Meredith (1940-44), and St. John the Baptist Parish in Hanover (1944).

He served temporarily at St. Edward Parish in Belleville, with missions in Munden, Cuba and Morrowville (1944) and St. John the Baptist Parish in Clyde (1944).

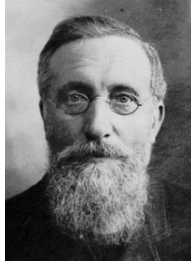
He was pastor at St. Michael Parish in Kimeo, with mission in Clara (1944-52), St. Patrick Parish in Lincoln (1952-58), Holy Cross Parish in Pfeifer (1958-62), St. Joseph Parish in New Almelo (1962-63), Sacred Heart Parish in Selden (1963-68), St. Paul Parish in Delphos and St. Mary Parish in Glasco (1968-69), and St. Mary, Help of Christians Parish in Gorham (1969-84.)

He was named a monsignor in 1982.

He retired to Salina and later to Hays. He is buried in Mount Calvary Cemetery in Salina.

JUNE 10, 1927

Rev. Adolph Wibbert



Rev. Wibbert was born Oct. 27, 1844, in Stadtlohn, Westphalia, Germany, and came to the United States in his youth. He served in the Union forces during the Civil War and was married with a son and daughter.

“A Centenary History of the Salina Catholic Community, 1876-1976” states that after the death of his wife, he became concerned about the shortage of priests who could serve the growing German Catholic immigrant community and enrolled in minor seminary in Cincinnati, then Grand Seminary in Montreal, Canada. He was ordained April 14, 1876, for the Vicariate of Kansas by Bishop Louis Fink at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Leavenworth.

After serving briefly in Leavenworth, he was assigned to be the first resident pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Salina. His assignment included missions extending west to the Colorado line, a distance of 250 miles. He established Mount Calvary Cemetery in 1878 and opened the first parochial school in his rectory that same year. He brought four Sisters of Charity from Leavenworth in 1879 to staff the school.

Rev. Wibbert left Salina in 1881 for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, where he served parishes in Dotyville, Platteville and Oshkosh. He founded the German Catholic weekly, *The Columbia*. He retired in 1913 and lived in Fond du Lac, Wis., where he died.

He is buried in the parish cemetery in Fond du Lac.

JUNE 11, 1973

Msgr. Edmond Arpin



Msgr. Arpin was born Oct. 30, 1904, in Damar, to Francis and Rose (Newell) Arpin. He attended grade school and two years of high school in Damar, then Maur Hill Prep in Atchison. He graduated from St. Benedict College in Atchison, then completed seminary studies at Kenrick Seminary in St. Louis. He was ordained May 1, 1932, by Bishop Francis Tief at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Cathedral in Concordia.

He was an assistant at Sacred Heart Parish in Salina (1932), Immaculate Conception Parish in Solomon (1932) and St. Peter Parish in Aurora (1932-37). He was pastor of St. Paul Parish in Delphos (1937-39), St. Patrick Parish in Ogden (1939-46) and Sacred Heart Parish in Colby (1946-73).

At Ogden, he oversaw the rebuilding of the church destroyed by fire the year before he was assigned. In Colby, he supervised the construction of a new church, completed in 1952, a new parochial school, which opened in 1961, and a new convent.

He was named a monsignor in 1949.

He was diocesan director of the Bishop's War Relief Collection (1944-48), diocesan director of displaced persons following World War II (1948), diocesan director of the Christian Rural Overseas Program (1947-49) and a member of the diocesan board of consultors (1964-74).

He is buried in the parish cemetery in Colby.

JUNE 14, 1922

Rev. John F. Kelly

Rev. Kelly was pastor of St. Bernard Parish in Ellsworth, with missions in Lincoln, Brookville, Dubuque, Rudolf and Wilson (1883-84). He is listed as pastor of Holy Name Parish in Winfield (1884 and 1885) and St. Teresa Parish in Hutchinson (1888 and 1891).

He is buried in St. Mary's Cemetery in Junction City, Kansas.

JUNE 17, 1931

Msgr. Adolphus Ennis



Msgr. Ennis was born Jan. 7, 1853, in Rome to an Irish father and Italian mother. He studied with the Jesuits in Rome, then answered a plea by Covington, Ky., Bishop Augustus Toebe for priests to serve in the United States. He completed his theological studies in America and was ordained Nov. 4, 1875, at the age of 22, being granted special dispensation by the Holy See to be ordained before reaching the canonical age of 24.

He served five years in Newport, Ky., then was given permission to serve in the Diocese of Leavenworth at the invitation of Bishop Louis Fink.

He was pastor of Seven Dolors Parish in Manhattan (1882-86) and St. John the Evangelist Parish in Lawrence (1886-94.) After a visit to Italy, he stopped in Kentucky, where the bishop asked him to serve his diocese again. He was pastor in Maysville, Ky. (1894-1902), then served at St. Mary Cathedral and St. Thomas Hospital in Nashville, Tenn. (1902-05), at the invitation of the Nashville bishop.

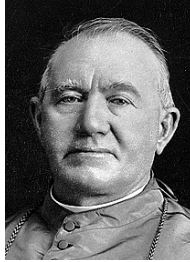
After another trip to Europe, he returned to Kansas to serve in the Diocese of Concordia. He was secretary to Bishop John Cunningham and chaplain at Nazareth Motherhouse in Concordia (1907-12), pastor of St. John the Baptist Parish in Clyde (1915-16) and rector of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Cathedral in Concordia (1917-23). He retired in 1923 and was named a monsignor in 1925. He returned to serve as chaplain of Nazareth Motherhouse until his death.

He was the author of two books, "Octavius" (1884) and "An Introduction to Dante's Inferno" (1904) and was fluent in several languages.

He is buried in St. Concordia Cemetery in Concordia.

JUNE 23, 1919

Bishop John Francis Cunningham



Bishop Cunningham was born June 20, 1842, in County Kerry, Ireland, to John and Catherine (Fitzgerald) Cunningham. He and three brothers came to America, and Bishop Cunningham enrolled at the new St. Benedict College in Atchison. One of the brothers, James, settled in Saline County.

Bishop Cunningham then studied at St. Francis Seminary in Milwaukee and was ordained Aug. 8, 1865, by Bishop John Miede for the Diocese of Leavenworth.

He served a mission church in Fort Scott, then in 1868 was sent to pastor the church in Lawrence. In the mid-1870s, he was sent on trips to seek donations to pay off the debt of the Leavenworth cathedral. He pastored the Church of the Assumption in Topeka (1877- 81) and was named vicar general of the diocese and rector of the cathedral in 1881.

He was consecrated bishop of the Diocese of Concordia on Sept. 21, 1898.

He served the rapidly growing diocese until his death. He is buried in Nazareth Motherhouse Cemetery in Concordia.

JUNE 24, 2007

Rev. William T. Kilian



Rev. Kilian was born June 4, 1914, in Chapman to William and Margaret (Cusing) Kilian. He attended local schools, then earned an engineering degree from Kansas State University. He worked for the Kansas transportation department, then enlisted in the U.S. Navy during World War II. He served as a lieutenant aboard a landing craft that participated in the D-Day invasion of Europe in June 1944.

After the war, he enrolled in Conception Seminary College in Conception, Mo. He was ordained May 5, 1953, by Bishop Frank Thill before a crowd of 5,000 during a Catholic Youth Organization rally at Memorial Hall in Salina with the intent of promoting vocations.

He was assistant pastor at St. John the Baptist Parish in Hanover (1953) and Seven Dolores Parish in Manhattan (1954).

He was pastor of Holy Ghost Parish in Sharon Springs and St. Peter Parish in Wallace (1957-58), chaplain at Nazareth Motherhouse in Concordia (1958- 63), pastor of St. Joseph Parish in New Almelo (1963- 67) and again at Hanover (1967-70), chaplain again at Nazareth Motherhouse (1970-73) and pastor of St. Theresa Parish in Mankato and St. Mary Parish in Jamestown (1973-86), St. Agnes Parish in Grainfield (1986-87) and Sacred Heart Parish in Selden and Immaculate Conception Parish in Leoville (1987-93).

He retired in 1993 but was substitute pastor at St. Wenceslaus Parish in Wilson for six months and at SS. Philip and James Parish in Phillipsburg for six months.

He moved to Damar and assisted at St. Joseph Parish until his death. He is buried in St. Patrick Cemetery near Chapman.

JUNE 28, 1946

Msgr. Richard James Daly



Msgr. Daly was born March 31, 1878, in County Cavan, Ireland, to James and Annie (Smith) Daly. He attended Cullies College and All Hallows College and was ordained for the Diocese of Concordia on June 24, 1900, at All Hallows Chapel in Dublin.

He served as an assistant at St. Joseph Parish in St. Joseph, St. Michael Parish in Chapman and St. Columba Parish in Elmo until November 1901, when he was appointed pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Norton, where he had responsibility for missions in Colby, Goodland, Esbon, Formoso, Jewell City and Oberlin and attended to stations in Burr Oak, Mankato, Smith Center, Agra, Phillipsburg, Marvin, Long Island, Norcatour, Kanorado, Burlington, Colo., and Limon, Colo.

He was pastor of St. Michael in Chapman (1907-1939) and Sacred Heart Parish in Salina (1939-46). In 1939, he also was named vicar general of the diocese and was serving in that capacity when the see of the diocese was transferred from Concordia to Salina on March 12, 1945. At that time he became rector of the new cathedral. He was named a monsignor on May 23, 1943. Before his death, less than a year after the see was moved to Salina, he had raised \$100,000 to build a new cathedral. He died of a heart attack in the cathedral rectory and is buried at Mount Calvary Cemetery in Salina.

JUNE 30, 1985

Rev. Robert L. Vering



Rev. Vering was born July 15, 1925, in Concordia to Leo and Josepha (Wasseberg) Vering. He attended local schools, then St. Louis Preparatory Seminary and Kenrick Seminary in St. Louis. He was ordained by Bishop Frank Thill on May 13, 1951, at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Salina.

He was assistant pastor at St. John the Baptist in Clyde, with missions in Morrowville and Cuba (1951- 57).

He was pastor of St. Michael Parish in Kimeo and a mission in Clara (1957-58), St. Paul Parish in Delphos and St. Mary Parish in Glasco (1958-66) and St. John the Baptist Parish in Clyde (1966-79). He was co-pastor of St. John the Baptist Parish in Beloit (1979-82) and co-pastor of Seven Dolors Parish and chaplain of St. Mary Hospital in Manhattan (1982-85).

At the time of his death, he had been assigned to become pastor of St. Bernard Parish in Ellsworth. He was vacationing in Mexico when he drowned in the Pacific Ocean near Puerto Vallarta. He had traveled frequently to Central America as diocesan director of the Papal Volunteers for Latin America and Extension Volunteers. He also served as diocesan director of religious education.

He is buried in St. Mary Cemetery in Jamestown.

JULY 1, 2010

Msgr. John George Weber



Msgr. Weber was born Aug. 10, 1916, in Victoria, to Jacob and Rosa (Herrman) Weber. The family moved to Park in 1920. He entered seminary as a high school student at Pontifical College Josephinum in Worthington, Ohio. He was ordained May 30, 1943.

Msgr. Weber served as chaplain of St. Joseph Home in Abilene (1943-48) and director of diocesan child welfare (1945-48) while serving as pastor of St. Phillip Parish in Hope (1946-48). He was pastor of St. Anthony Parish in St. Peter (1948-58) and associate director of diocesan youth ministry (1954-59). He was pastor of St. Peter Parish in Aurora (1958- 60) and director of diocesan rural life (1958-60 and 1977-2002).

In 1960 he was named executive secretary of the National Catholic Rural Life Conference, based in Des Moines, Iowa. He served there until 1976. He then was pastor of St. Frances Cabrini Parish in Hoxie and St. Martin of Tours Parish in Seguin (1976- 80), rector of Sacred Heart Cathedral in Salina (1980- 87), pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Brookville (1984-87) and SS. Peter and Paul Parish in Clay Center and St. Anthony Parish in Miltonvale (1987-94) and interim pastor of St. Joseph's Parish in Oakley, St. Paul Parish in Angelus and Immaculate Conception Parish in Grinnell (1994). He retired in 1994 to Salina and assisted at St. Mary, Queen of the Universe Parish until 2007.

He was named a monsignor in 1963.

He oversaw construction of new churches in St. Peter and Hoxie and a new parish center in Clay Center.

He is buried in the parish cemetery in Park.

JULY 7, 2012

Rev. Joseph Henry Scheetz



Rev. Scheetz was born April 8, 1927, in Clayton to Leonard and Marie (Otter) Scheetz. He attended schools in New Almelo and Leoville, then Conception Seminary College in Conception, Mo. and Mount St. Mary Seminary of the West in Norwood, Ohio. He was ordained on May 27, 1954, by Dodge City Bishop John Franz at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Salina. A younger brother, Father Daniel Scheetz, was ordained in 1965.

He was assistant pastor at St. John the Baptist Parish in Beloit, with its missions of St. Mary in Downs and St. Mary in Jamestown (1954-58).

He was pastor of St. Joseph Parish in St. Joseph and St. Isidore Parish in Cuba (1958-63), St. John the Evangelist Parish in Logan, with its mission of St. Mary in Denmore (1963-68), St. Joseph Parish in Oakley (1968-72), St. Mary, Queen of the Universe Parish in Salina and St. Patrick in Gypsum (1972-75), St. Michael Parish in Chapman (1975-80), Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Goodland (1980-85), St. Anthony Parish in Schoenchen and Our Lady, Help of Christians Parish in Antonino (1985-86), Sacred Heart Parish in Atwood and St. John Nepomucene Parish at Beardsley (1986- 94) and Christ the King Parish in WaKeeney (1994-98).

He served as chaplain at St. John Hospital in Salina, taught at the former Notre Dame High School in Concordia, was diocesan director of rural life (1960-65) and served on the priestly formation committee.

He retired from active ministry in 1998 and lived in WaKeeney until his death. He is buried in St. Joseph Cemetery in New Almelo.

JULY 8, 1935

Msgr. William Schellberg



Msgr. Schellberg was born Jan. 5, 1859, in Asbach, Germany, and was ordained June 7, 1884, in Roermand, Holland. He came to America later that year to serve in the Diocese of Leavenworth.

He was pastor at parishes in Shawnee, Rosedale and Lenexa.

He then was pastor of St. John the Baptist Parish in Hanover, which became part of the Diocese of Concordia in 1897, from 1890 until his death 45 years later.

During his tenure, the massive stone church, original grade school building, rectory and sisters' house were constructed, and the Catholic cemetery enlarged.

He was named a monsignor in 1925.

He is buried in St. John Cemetery in Hanover.

JULY 9, 1911

Rev. William H. Bitter

Rev. Bitter was born Nov. 1, 1852, in Worringen near Cologne, Germany. He was ordained Nov. 5, 1885, for the Diocese of Leavenworth by Milwaukee Archbishop Michael Heiss at St. Francis Seminary in Milwaukee.

He was appointed pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Liebenthal in 1885 and served its mission of St. Anthony in Schoenchen and Holy Cross in Pfeifer, as well as Rush Center and McCracken.

He then was pastor in Wellington (1887-90) and Danville (1890-92).

In 1892, Bishop John Hennessy, serving as apostolic administrator of the Diocese of Concordia, assigned Rev. Bitter to Herndon to merge a rural and town parish, each of which had wanted its own pastor. He was pastor of Assumption of Mary Parish in Herndon until 1894, when he was named pastor of St. John the Baptist Parish in Beloit.

He served in Beloit until 1898 and then left Kansas. His ministry took him to Minocqua, Wis., Jacksonville, Ore., and Coronado, Calif.

The location of his burial is unknown.

JULY 13, 1920

Bishop John Hennessy



Bishop Hennessy was born July 19, 1847, in County Cork, Ireland, and moved as a child with his family to St. Louis. He studied for the priesthood in St. Louis, Milwaukee and Cape Girardeau, Mo., and was ordained Nov. 28, 1869, with a dispensation, because at 22 he was under canonical age.

As a priest of the Diocese of St. Louis, he served missions in southern Missouri and in St. Louis. He was ordained bishop of Wichita on Nov. 30, 1888, in St. Louis.

He is considered the second bishop of the Diocese of Concordia because he served as apostolic administrator for a seven-year period, from early 1891 until September 1898, while he was the Wichita bishop.

He is interred in the mausoleum at Calvary Cemetery in Wichita.

JULY 14, 1935

Rev. John Faber



Rev. Faber was born Aug. 9, 1867, in Cologne, Germany. He attended parochial schools and universities in Friesburg and Bonn, Germany. He studied at Canisian College in Fribourg, Switzerland, where he was ordained April 4, 1908.

He was assistant pastor at St. Mary, Help of Christians Parish in Gorham (1909). He was pastor of St. Martin of Tours Parish in Seguin and its mission in Oakley (1910) and Immaculate Conception Parish in Grinnell (1911-12).

He then served in the Diocese of Wichita as a chaplain at St. Francis Hospital in Wichita and in parishes in Belpre, Dubuque and Strong City.

He died in Emporia and is buried in the St. Anthony Parish cemetery in Strong City.

JULY 16, 1939

Rev. John McNamara



Rev. McNamara was born June 22, 1859, in County Kilkenny, Ireland, to Edmond and Bridget (Rice) McNamara. He studied at the College of Mount Melleray, then came to America and enrolled at St. Bonaventure College and Seminary in Allegheny, N.Y. He was ordained May 26, 1888, in Buffalo, N.Y., for the Diocese of Leavenworth.

He served in Arkansas City, Chetopa, Baxter Springs, Columbus and Galena.

He was chaplain at St. Joseph Academy in Abilene and pastor of St. Columba Parish in Elmo and St. Phillip Parish in Hope (1892-99) when the counties of Dickinson, Washington, Clay, Geary and Riley were transferred from the Leavenworth Diocese to the Concordia Diocese, beginning his affiliation with this diocese.

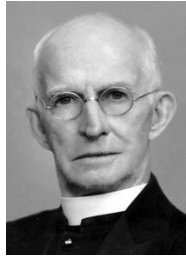
He was assistant pastor at Sacred Heart Parish in Salina (1899-1902) and attended missions in Ellsworth, Brookville, Lincoln and Vesper.

He was pastor of St. Patrick Parish in Lincoln, with missions in Vesper and Waldo (1903-09), Sacred Heart Parish in Oberlin with its mission in Phillipsburg (1910-12), Sacred Heart Parish in Niles (1913-14 and 1916-21) and St. Michael Parish in Kimeo (1921-35).

He retired in 1935 to St. Joseph Hospital in Concordia. He is buried in St. Concordia Cemetery in Concordia.

JULY 17, 1948

Rev. John Regan



Rev. Regan was born June 8, 1857, in Momence, Ill., to Martin and Margaret (Cashel) Regan and moved with his family to Washington County, Kan., in 1873, and then to Esbon. He studied at St. Benedict College in Atchison, St. Francis Seminary in Milwaukee and Mount St. Mary of the West Seminary in Cincinnati.

He was ordained as the first priest for the new Diocese of Concordia on May 27, 1888 — nine months after the diocese was founded — by Bishop Richard Scannell in Cincinnati. He was pastor of St. Paul Parish in Delphos and its missions in Minneapolis, Glasco, Lincoln, Ada, Vesper, Waldo and Meredith (1888-96), SS. Peter and Paul Parish in Cawker City and its missions in Osborne, Stockton and Logan (1896-98), Seven Dolours Parish in Manhattan and its missions in Ogden and McDowell Creek (1898-99), St. Andrew Parish in Abilene and its missions in Vine Creek and Ada (1900-01) and St. Paul Parish in Angelus and its mission in Park (1901-02).

He was chaplain to the Sisters of St. Joseph of Wichita in Abilene (1902-06), then was assistant pastor at Immaculate Conception Parish in Leoville and its mission in Selden (1906-07). He returned to Abilene as chaplain at St. Joseph Orphanage (1908-09), was pastor of St. Peter Parish in Aurora (1910-11) and Leoville (1911-12). He returned to the Abilene orphanage (1912-23), then was chaplain at Nazareth Motherhouse in Concordia (1923-24). He was pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Oberlin (1924-26) and St. Martin of Tours Parish in Seguin (1926-30). He returned as chaplain at the Concordia motherhouse (1931-39) and Home of the Little Flower in Concordia (1940-46).

He is buried in St. Concordia Cemetery in Concordia

JULY 18, 2019

Rev. Mark Berland



Rev. Berland was born Dec. 14, 1948, in Zurich to Fred Jr. and Eunice (Balthazor) Berland. He attended the first eight grades in Zurich, before attending high school at St. Francis Seminary in Victoria, and completed studies at Conception Seminary College in Conception, Mo., and Kenrick Theological Seminary in St. Louis. He was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Cyril Vogel on June 1, 1974, at St. Ann Church in Zurich.

He was an assistant pastor at Sacred Heart Cathedral, Salina, and assistant editor of The Register (1974-79).

He was pastor of St. Phillip Parish in Hope, and St. Columba Parish in Elmo (1979-80) and associate pastor of St. Mary, Queen of the Universe Parish in Salina, and full-time religion teacher, Sacred Heart High School in Salina (1980-82).

He was pastor at Sacred Heart Parish in Colby (1982-85), St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Norton, and St. Joseph Parish in New Almelo (1985-96), Sacred Heart Parish in Park, and St. Agnes Parish in Grainfield (1996-2009) and Sacred Heart Parish in Oberlin, Sacred Heart Parish in Selden, and Immaculate Conception Parish in Leoville (2009-2019).

He retired in 2019 and died shortly after. He is buried in St. Ann Cemetery in Zurich.

JULY 21, 1884

Bishop John Baptiste Miege, S.J.



Bishop Miege was born Sept. 18, 1815, in La Foret, Savoy, France. He entered the Society of Jesus in 1836 and was ordained to the priesthood in Rome on Sept. 12, 1847. He was on the faculty of St. Louis University in St. Louis when he was appointed vicar apostolic of Indian Territory East of the Rocky Mountains on July 23, 1850. He was consecrated by Archbishop Peter Kenrick on March 25, 1851, at St. Francis Xavier Church in St. Louis.

Bishop Miege established his see at St. Mary's Mission at St. Marys, Kan., on May 31, 1851. He moved the see to Leavenworth in 1855. His ecclesiastical territory was redefined as the state of Kansas and renamed the Vicariate Apostolic of Kansas in 1868. That same year the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Leavenworth was dedicated.

After handing over the administration to his coadjutor, Bishop Louis Mary Fink, Bishop Miege traveled South America for two and a half years raising money to pay off the debt on the cathedral.

He asked to resign and was released from his duties on Dec. 11, 1874. Bishop Miege left Leavenworth and resumed his station as a member of the Jesuit Province of Missouri. He served as spiritual director of the Jesuit seminary at Woodstock, Md., (1874-77). He later founded the University of Detroit and served as its first president (1877-80). He returned to Woodstock, where he died. He is buried at Woodstock College.

JULY 22, 1902

Rev. John H. Timphaus

Rev. Timphaus was born Aug. 29, 1843, in Steinfeld, Oldenburg, Germany. After serving in the Franco- Prussian War, he came to America in 1869 to study for the priesthood. Bishop John Miede sent him to St. Mary College in St. Marys for seminary studies. Bishop Louis Fink ordained him Oct. 18, 1876, at Immaculate Conception Cathedral in Leavenworth.

He was assigned as the first resident pastor at St. John the Baptist Parish in Beloit (1878-80). He also served Catholic settlements in Lincoln, Delphos, Tipton, Cawker City, Esbon, Kirwin, Phillipsburg, Meredith, Palmer and Aurora. He was impressed with Beloit and advertised in German-language newspapers in the United States and abroad seeking additional settlers. More than 40 Catholic families came from Germany, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio and Iowa to join the 25 families already there. Catholics had been attending Masses on the second floor of a retail building, which soon became inadequate. The first church was erected in 1878 of limestone, and a parochial school began in 1879.

Rev. Timphaus was assigned to serve St. Joseph Parish in Wathena, Doniphan County, in 1880, where he remained until his death. He is buried in Mount Calvary Cemetery in Wathena.

JULY 24, 1949

Rev. Raymond Drees

Rev. Drees was born Nov. 1, 1873, in Kansas City, Kan., to Ferdinand and Mary (Jakobe) Drees. He studied with the Franciscan Fathers in Cincinnati and was ordained for the order on June 29, 1898, in Oldenburg, Ind. He was incardinated into the Diocese of Concordia in April 1906 by Bishop John Cunningham.

As a Franciscan, he served parishes in Illinois and Ohio from 1898 to 1902. He came to the Concordia Diocese in 1903 and served at St. John the Baptist Parish in Herington, with missions in Tampa and Hope (1903-04) and St. Aloysius Parish in Lanham, with missions in Morrowville and Haddam (1905).

He was incardinated while pastor of SS. Peter and Paul Parish in Cawker City, with missions in Downs, Osborne, Alton, Stockton and Cedarville (1906-07). He was pastor of St. Boniface Parish in Tipton (1908-09), SS. Peter and Paul Parish in Clay Center, with a mission in Wakefield (1910-26) and Sacred Heart Parish in Colby (1927). He was chaplain at Marymount College in Salina (1927-28).

A throat illness led to the loss of his voice. He retired in 1930, attempted to serve again as chaplain at Marymount (1930-31), then retired to Kansas City, Mo., where he died July 24, 1949.

He is buried in Mount Saint Mary Catholic Cemetery, Kansas City, Missouri.

JULY 26, 1867

Rev. Louis Dumortier

Rev. Dumortier was the first priest assigned to care for Catholic pioneers who began settling near St. Mary's Indian Mission in Pottawatomie County. He was born Oct. 12, 1810, in Lille, France, and entered the Jesuits in Belgium in 1839. He was sent to America to continue his studies at St. Stanislaus Seminary in Florissant, Mo., and was ordained in 1848.

He taught at Jesuit colleges in St. Louis, Cincinnati and Bardstown, Ky. After a sabbatical in France, he was assigned to St. Mary's Indian Mission in 1859. He traveled widely, offering the sacraments to Catholic settlers as far west as Ellsworth and building five small churches. In 1867, upon hearing of a cholera epidemic at Fort Harker near Ellsworth, he traveled there to minister to the soldiers and civilians. He became ill, with one account stating he contracted cholera, while another maintaining he was overcome by fatigue. He died at the fort, and his body was returned for burial at St. Mary's Mission.

JULY 30, 1943

Rev. Thomas Leon Aumais



Rev. Aumais was born Oct. 16, 1900, in Montreal, Canada, to Leon and Laura (Labelle) Aumais. He attended elementary school at St. Bridget School in Montreal and high school at Academie Commerciale in Nicolet. He attended college at Nicolet Seminary and the University of Montreal. He attended St. Thomas Aquinas Seminary in Ottawa, Canada, St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Sherbrooke, Canada, and St. Thomas Seminary in Denver. He was ordained June 7, 1931, by Bishop Henry Tihen for the Diocese of Concordia at the cathedral in Denver.

Rev. Aumais was an assistant at St. Peter Parish in Aurora (1931-32).

He was pastor of St. Ann Parish in Zurich and St. Raphael Parish in Palco (1932-39) and St. Joseph Parish in Damar (1939-43).

He is buried in the parish cemetery at Damar.

JULY 30, 1959

Rev. Eugene Teahan



Rev. Teahan was born Dec. 26, 1880, in County Kerry, Ireland, to John and Ellen (McGillycuddy) Teahan. He studied at St. Patrick College in Carlow, Ireland, and St. Edward College in Weir, England, then All Hallows College in Dublin, Ireland, and Catholic University of Ireland. He was ordained July 5, 1906, in Concordia by Bishop John Cunningham.

He was pastor of Sacred Heart Parish (then known as St. Elizabeth) in Esbon and its five missions (1907- 08,) St. Aloysius Gonzaga Parish in Osborne and its missions in Claudell and Stockton (1909-27) and St. Bernard Parish in Ellsworth and St. Ignatius Loyola Parish in Kanopolis (1927-50).

In the early years, he traveled by motorcycle to reach far-flung rural residences to celebrate Mass. He retired due to ill health in 1950. Parishioners built him a new home in Ellsworth, where he lived until his death in 1959 following a stroke. His gravestone in the Ellsworth parish cemetery reads: "Sunny Kansas, Holy Ireland, in my heart had each a throne."

In 1960, Ellsworth parishioners raised \$15,000 to install an 87-bell carillon at St. Bernard in his memory.

JULY 30, 2018

Rev. Loren Werth



Born Oct. 16, 1930 in Schoenchen to Edward and Sophia (Herklotz) Werth, he grew up in Schoenchen in St. Anthony Parish. He went to St. Anthony Grade school and two years of Schoenchen High School before attending high school and college at Conception Seminary in Conception, Mo. He was ordained May 26, 1956 at Sacred Heart Cathedral by Bishop Frank Thill.

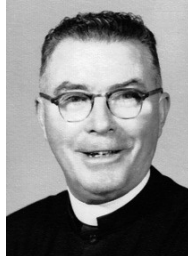
He was named parochial vicar at St. Francis Parish in Norton in 1956. In 1958 he was named pastor of St. Michael Parish in Kimeo and its mission St. Bernard in Clara. In 1960 he was named pastor of St. Theresa Parish in Mankato and its mission St. Francis Parish in Claudell. In 1966 he was named pastor of St. Augustine Parish in Washington and SS. Peter and Paul Parish in Morrowville. In 1970 he was named pastor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Concordia. In 1981 he was the founding pastor of St. Thomas More Parish in Manhattan.

In 1991 he was pastor of St. Aloysius Parish in Osborne and its mission St. Mary Parish in Downs. In 1994 he was pastor of SS. Peter and Paul Parish in Clay Center and its mission St. Anthony Parish in Miltonvale. He retired to Manhattan in 2000.

He was buried in the St. Anthony Cemetery, Schoenchen, Kansas.

AUG. 2, 1986

Msgr. Thomas Keogan



Msgr. Keogan was born Dec. 29, 1904, in County Cavan, Ireland, to Patrick and Margaret (Bough) Keogan. He attended local schools and St. Kieran College in Kilkenny. He was ordained June 10, 1928, by Bishop James Roche at St. Mary Cathedral in Kilkenny for the Diocese of Concordia. Two brothers, Peter and Patrick also became priests, with Rev. Peter also serving in the Diocese of Concordia. Rev. Patrick was a priest in England.

Msgr. Thomas Keogan was a chaplain at St. John Hospital in Salina and assistant pastor at Sacred Heart Parish in Niles (1928-30) and Sacred Heart Parish in Salina (1930-32).

He was pastor of St. John the Evangelist Parish in Logan, with missions in Claudell and Densmore (1932-55) and St. Francis Xavier Parish in Junction City (1955-82). He retired in 1982 but remained in Junction City and served the parish until moving to Ireland in 1985. He died there a year later and is buried in his home parish cemetery.

He was named a monsignor in 1943.

When Bishop Frederick Freking was named bishop of the Diocese of La Crosse, Wis., on Dec. 27, 1964, Msgr. Keogan was elected diocesan administrator. He served six months until June 25, 1965, when Msgr. Cyril Vogel of the Diocese of Greensburg, Pa., was ordained and installed as bishop.

AUG. 5, 1926

Rev. Francis Hayden



Rev. Hayden was born Nov. 3, 1852, in County Roscommon, Ireland. He came to America in 1869. He first studied at a seminary that was located at the present Assumption Church in Topeka. When that closed, he finished his studies at St. Vincent Seminary in Latrobe, Pa. He was ordained May 17, 1875.

He was an assistant pastor at parishes in Leavenworth and Topeka.

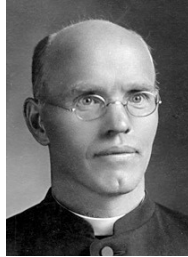
He was pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish in Solomon and its missions in Abilene, Elmo and Hope (1876-80). His brother, Rev. Bernard, also served the Solomon parish (1869-71 and 1886-1905).

In 1880 he started St. Bridget Parish in the packing house district of Kansas City. In 1887, he became pastor of Assumption Church in Topeka, which was the city's only parish. He started Assumption High School in 1911, which later became known as Topeka Catholic High School and then Topeka Hayden High School.

He retired in 1914 and lived in Topeka until his death. He is buried in Mount Calvary Cemetery in Topeka.

AUG. 5, 1939

Rev. Peter Hoeller



Rev. Hoeller was born Nov. 7, 1866, in Berghausen, Germany, to Peer and Christina (Klug) Hoeller. He studied at the College of the Salvatorian Fathers and Gregorian University in Rome. He was ordained May 22, 1898, in Wichitaby Bishop John Hennessy for the Diocese of Wichita.

Bishop Hennessy was apostolic administrator of the Diocese of Concordia and assigned Rev. Hoeller as assistant pastor at St. Andrew Parish in Abilene, with missions in Elmo, Hope and Herington.

After Bishop John Cunningham was named bishop of Concordia in September 1898, Rev. Hoeller did not request to be returned to the Wichita Diocese and remained in the Concordia Diocese. He was pastor of SS. Peter and Paul Parish in Cawker City, with missions in Cedarville, Logan, Densmore, Osborne, Alton and Stockton (1898-99), and St. Peter Parish in Delphos, with missions in Glasco, Meredith, Minneapolis and Ada (1899-1901).

He was the first resident pastor of St. Mary, Help of Christians Parish in Gorham, with missions in Russell and Dorrance (1901-07). He was pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Park (1907-16), with a mission in Grainfield, and St. Anthony Parish in Schoenchen (1916-30).

He retired in 1930 to Engelskirchen, Germany, where he died and is buried.

AUG. 7, 1990

Rev. Maurice John Ptacek



Rev. Ptacek was born July 7, 1930, in Dorrance to Frank and Anna Ptacek. He attended local schools, then St. Mary College in St. Marys, Ky., and Immaculate Conception Seminary in Conception, Mo. He was ordained to the priesthood on June 2, 1962, by Bishop Frederick Freking at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Salina.

He served as an assistant pastor at Seven Dolors Parish in Manhattan and substitute pastor at St. Michael Parish in Kimeo, St. Wenceslaus Parish in Wilson and Sacred Heart Parish in Plainville (1962). He was an assistant at St. Francis Xavier Parish in Junction (1963-66) and St. John the Baptist Parish in Beloit (1966-68).

He was pastor of St. Anthony Parish in Miltonvale and its mission in Meredith (1968-70), St. Peter Parish in Aurora and its mission of Miltonvale (1970-72), St. Joseph Parish in Oakley (1972-81) and Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Concordia (1981-87).

Because of failing health, he was named an assistant pastor at Sacred Heart Cathedral (1987-88), then retired and lived at St. John Hospital in Salina until his death. He is buried in St. Wenceslaus Cemetery in Wilson.

AUG. 8, 1967

Msgr. Michael Mulvihill



Msgr. Mulvihill was born Sept. 19, 1888, in County Kerry, Ireland, to Michael and Nora (Mulvihill) Mulvihill. He attended All Hallows College in Dublin and was ordained for the Concordia Diocese on June 22, 1913, in Dublin. His brother, Rev. Daniel Mulvihill, and his sister, Mary Ann, later Sister Ann Joseph of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Concordia, served in the Diocese of Concordia, later the Diocese of Salina.

He was pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Greenleaf (1914), Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Goodland and its mission in Colby (1914-25), Colby (1925-26), St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Norton and its missions in Phillipsburg and the Norton state sanitarium (1926- 39), Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish and chaplain at St. John Hospital in Salina (1939-45) and St. Martin of Tours Parish in Seguin (1946-64). He stayed at Seguin as pastor emeritus until his death.

He was named a monsignor in 1956. He was state chaplain for the Knights of Columbus (1934-36).

He is buried next to his brother, Rev. Daniel, in the Seguin parish cemetery.

AUG. 12, 1927

Rev. Michael Browne



Rev. Browne was born May 10, 1852, in County Kings, Ireland. He studied at St. Jarlath College in Quam, Ireland, and St. Vincent College in Cape Girardeau, Mo. He was ordained April 26, 1879, by Leavenworth Bishop Louis Fink at the cathedral in Leavenworth. His nephew was Rev. Joseph Browne, also a priest for the Diocese of Concordia.

He was pastor in Hoge in Leavenworth County (1880-84).

He was pastor of St. Patrick Parish in Jewell City and its missions in Burr Oak, Esbon, Jamestown and Omio (1887-91, and possibly several years after), SS. Peter and Paul Parish in Clay Center (1899-1900) and St. Michael Parish in Kimeo (1901-19). He retired in 1920.

He is buried in St. Michael Cemetery in Kimeo.

AUG. 14, 1956

Rev. Michael John Hogan



Rev. Hogan was born June 13, 1904, near Greenleaf to John and Mary (Butler) Hogan. He attended local schools, then St. Benedict High School in Atchison. He attended St. Benedict College in Atchison, then Kenrick Seminary in St. Louis. He was ordained May 1, 1932, by Bishop Francis Tief at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Cathedral in Concordia.

He held temporary appointments or was assistant pastor at Sacred Heart Parish in Greenleaf, St. Paul Parish in Delphos, St. John the Baptist Parish in Beloit, St. Mary of the Assumption Parish in Clifton and Seven Dolours Parish in Manhattan (1932-39). During that time, he also attended Catholic University of America for post-graduate studies.

He was named diocesan superintendent of schools in 1936. He also was chaplain at St. Joseph Hospital in Concordia. At the direction of Bishop Frank Thill, he founded the diocese's Catholic Youth Organization, which had its first convention in 1940.

He was pastor of St. Agnes Parish in Grainfield (1941-56).

He is buried in St. Agnes Cemetery in Grainfield.

AUG. 14, 1974

Msgr. Bernard Herman Dickman



Msgr. Dickman was born Dec. 25, 1906, near Angelus to Frank and Regina (Robben) Dickman. He graduated from St. Joseph Military Academy in Hays and St. Benedict College in Atchison. He studied at Kenrick Seminary in St. Louis and was ordained April 7, 1935, by Bishop Francis Tief at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Cathedral in Concordia.

He was pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Oberlin (1935-39), St. Ann Parish in Zurich, with missions in Palco, Stockton and Hill City (1939-60), St. Thomas Parish in Stockton (1960-67) and Immaculate Conception Parish in Grainfield (1967-74).

He built churches in Zurich, Hill City and Stockton, where he was the first resident pastor.

He was named a monsignor on Jan. 19, 1956.

He is buried in the parish cemetery in Grainfield.

AUG. 17, 1941

Rev. Louis Gabriel McGrath



Rev. McGrath was born March 19, 1883, in County Westmeath, Ireland, to Christopher and Catherine (Lynch) McGrath. He attended St. Patrick College in Carlow, Ireland, and was ordained June 15, 1909, by Bishop Patrick Foley at St. Patrick Cathedral in Carlow for the Diocese of Concordia.

He served briefly in Topeka for the Diocese of Leavenworth.

He was pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Niles (1910-13), Sacred Heart Parish in Oberlin, with a mission in Phillipsburg (1913-24) and St. Paul Parish in Delphos, with a mission in Glasco (1924-29).

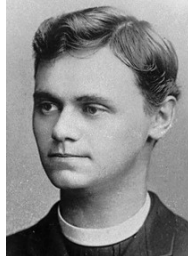
He was assistant pastor at St. Andrew Parish in Abilene (1929-30) and pastor of St. Mary of the Assumption Parish in Clifton, with missions in Clara and Morrowville (1930-31). He was granted a leave of absence and served in the Fargo, N.D., and Rapid City, S.D., dioceses.

He returned to the Concordia Diocese and was assistant pastor of St. John the Baptist Parish in Beloit (1932-34) and chaplain of St. John Hospital in Salina (1934-36) and St. Joseph Orphanage in Abilene (1936-41).

He is buried in Mount St. Joseph Cemetery at Abilene.

AUG. 17, 1951

Rev. August P. Heimann



Rev. Heimann was born Feb. 15, 1866, in Lafayette, Ind. He attended St. Francis Seminary in Milwaukee and Mount St. Mary Seminary in Cincinnati, initially for the Diocese of Fort Wayne, Ind., but then was adopted by Bishop Louis Fink of the Diocese of Leavenworth. Later, the Leavenworth Diocese was split into three dioceses, and Rev. Heimann was adopted by the Diocese of Concordia, where he was the second priest to be ordained by Bishop Richard Scannell, on June 29, 1889.

He served the westernmost missions, based in Colby, and traveled to 24 outposts monthly, including Goodland, Angelus, Beloit and Herndon.

When Bishop Scannell was named bishop of Omaha in 1891, Wichita Bishop John Hennessy was appointed apostolic administrator of Concordia. He transferred Rev. Heimann to the Wichita Diocese, where he remained for the rest of his life. He served parishes in Odin, Garden City, St. Joe, Kinsley, Piqua, Sharon and Bushton.

He retired to El Dorado. He is buried in the parish cemetery in Piqua.

AUG. 17, 1964

Msgr. John F. McManus



Msgr. McManus was born Jan. 10, 1891, in County Fermaugh, Ireland, to Edward and Theresa (Dundas) McManus and came to America at age 13. He studied at St. John College Preparatory School in New York until joining the U.S. Navy submarine corps during World War I. After the war, he completed a degree at Fordham University, then enrolled at St. Bonaventure Seminary in Allegheny, N.Y. He was ordained for the Diocese of Concordia on May 29, 1927.

He served one year as secretary to Bishop Francis Tief and as assistant pastor at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Cathedral in Concordia, St. Mary Parish in Jamestown and St. Patrick Parish in Lincoln, with a mission at Vesper (1928).

He was pastor of St. Wenceslaus Parish in Wilson, with missions in Holyrood and Kanopolis, (1929-63).

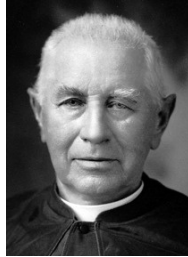
He retired because of ill health and lived at St. John Hospital in Salina.

He was national chaplain of the American Legion in 1943 and state chaplain on three occasions. He was national chaplain of the Forty and Eight of the American Legion in 1954. He was named a monsignor in 1956.

He is buried in St. Wenceslaus Cemetery in Wilson.

AUG. 24, 1951

Msgr. John Bernard Vornholt



Msgr. Vornholt was born May 15, 1865, in Everswinkel, Warendorf, Germany, to John and Bernadine (Kohues) Vornholt. He came to the United States in 1888 and studied at St. Francis Seminary in Milwaukee, Wis., and St. Meinrad Seminary in Indiana. He was ordained Nov. 6, 1892, by Bishop John Hennessey for the Diocese of Wichita but later became a priest of the Diocese of Concordia. Bishop Hennessey was apostolic administrator of the Concordia Diocese from 1891-97.

He served parishes, missions and stations in Olmitz, Newton, Wellington, Oxford, Caldwell and Marienthal in the Wichita Diocese while based at the Wichita cathedral. He was pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Plainville and served 26 parishes, missions and stations as far west as Menlo (1894-04) and St. Joseph Parish in New Almelo, with missions in Logan and Densmore, (1904-42). He built the present New Almelo church and school building and operated the school until women religious arrived in 1922 after a convent was built. He also planned the townsite around the church, naming each street for a saint. He built churches at St. Peter, Natoma and Logan.

He was named a monsignor in 1930. He was diocesan director of the priests' Eucharistic League (1922- 42). He was elected diocesan administrator and served from Bishop Francis Tief's resignation in June 1938 until Bishop Frank Thill's installation in November 1938.

He retired and lived in New Almelo. He is buried in the parish cemetery at New Almelo.

AUG. 31, 1973

Rev. Thomas Lonergan



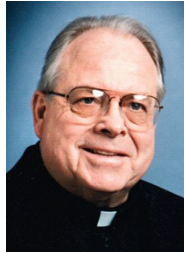
Rev. Lonergan was born April 23, 1912, in Andover, Mass., to Thomas and Katherine (Gorman) Lonergan. He attended grade school in Stamford, Conn., St. John Prep School in Danvers, Mass., and Niagara University. He was ordained June 3, 1939, in Buffalo, N.Y., for the Diocese of Concordia.

He was assistant pastor at St. Peter Parish in Aurora (1939) and St. John the Baptist Parish in Beloit (1939- 43) and chaplain at St. Thomas Hospital in Colby (1943-44). He was pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish in Minneapolis, with missions in Vine Creek and Ada (1944-50), St. Bernard Parish in Ellsworth, with a mission in Holyrood (1950-59), SS. Peter and Paul Parish in Clay Center (1959-67), St. John the Evangelist Parish in Herington (1967-69) and St. Aloysius Gonzaga Parish in Osborne (1969-73).

He is buried in St. Augustine Cemetery in Andover, Mass.

SEPT. 1, 2000

Msgr. Gilbert Landoll



Msgr. Landoll was born Sept. 24, 1924, in Hanover to Otto and Rose (Kramer) Landoll. He attended local Catholic and public schools, then St. Louis Preparatory Seminary and Kenrick Seminary in St. Louis. He was ordained May 28, 1950, by Bishop Frank Thill at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Salina.

He was assistant pastor at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Concordia (1950-51) and Seven Dolors Parish in Manhattan (1951-52). He was chaplain of the Newman Club at Kansas State University in Manhattan (1952-54).

He was administrator of Holy Cross Parish in Pfeifer (1954-58), pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish in Solomon (1958-75) — where he built one of the first buildings housing both religious education and the parish hall — and St. Michael Parish in Chapman (1975-76), rector of Sacred Heart Cathedral in Salina (1976-80), and pastor of Chapman (1980-90) and Solomon, with a mission in Niles (1990-93).

Named a monsignor in 1963, he served in a number of diocesan posts, including director of vocations (1958-59), pro-chancellor (1959) and chancellor (1959- 75), comptroller (1975-83), vicar general (1980-83) and finance administrator (1983-86). When Bishop Daniel Kucera was named archbishop of Dubuque, Iowa, on Feb. 23, 1984, Msgr. Landoll was elected diocesan administrator. He served three months until May 29, 1984, when Auxiliary Bishop George Fitzsimons of the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph, Mo., was installed as bishop.

He was a pilot and often flew to attend to business across the diocese. Msgr. Landoll retired in 1993 and lived in Salina, Abilene, Manhattan and Concordia.

He is buried in Mount Calvary Cemetery in Salina.

SEPT. 6, 1907

Rev. John F. Fogarty

Rev. Fogarty was born in Sept. 7, 1838, in County Tipperary, Ireland, to John and Mary (McCormack) Forgarty. He came to the United States and attended seminary in New York and St. Francis Seminary in Milwaukee. He was ordained Aug. 10, 1866, in Leavenworth by Bishop John Miede, vicar apostolic of Kansas.

He was a pioneer priest in Kansas, serving in the early years before the Diocese of Concordia was founded. He served in Marshall and Nemaha counties, then was the first resident pastor of St. Francis Xavier Parish in Junction City (1867-71). He also served numerous missions in western Kansas.

He was pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish in Solomon (1871-76), with missions extending as far west as Kit Carson, Colo.

He returned to Ireland for an extended visit.

He was the first resident pastor of St. Mary Parish in Ellis (1886-93).

He left the diocese and spent several years serving in the Denver Diocese. He then is listed in 1896 as living in Junction City and attending missions in McDowell Creek and Skiddy in Geary County. He is reported living in St. Louis when his brother Cornelius died in 1901 in Junction City. He began serving at Annunciation Parish in Kansas City, Mo., in 1902. He died Sept. 6, 1907, while traveling to Excelsior Springs, Mo., and is buried in the family plot in St. Mary Cemetery in Junction City.

SEPT. 7, 1903

Rev. Daniel Joseph Hurley



Rev. Hurley was born July 5, 1854, in Boston. His family moved to Leavenworth in 1857. He attended St. Vincent Seminary in Westmoreland, Pa., and graduated at the age of 20 but could not be ordained because he was too young. By special dispensation from the required age of 24, he was ordained June 29, 1877, at the age of 22 by Leavenworth Bishop Louis Fink.

He was pastor of the parish in Paola (1877-83) and St. Francis Xavier Parish in Junction City and its missions (1884-1903).

He is buried in Mount Calvary Cemetery in Leavenworth.

SEPT. 7, 1948

Rev. Arthur J. Van Speybroeck



Rev. Van Speybroeck was born Nov. 6, 1875, in Lille, France, to Charles and Eugenia (Mastein) Van Speybroeck. He studied at St. Marys College in Kansas, St. Joseph College in Memramcook, New Brunswick, and the Grand Seminary in Montreal. He was ordained for the Diocese of Concordia by Ottawa Archbishop Joseph-Médard Émard on April 20, 1902, in Valley Field, Canada.

Before attending seminary, he was a professor of French, English and Latin at Holy Cross College in Farnham, Quebec, and St. Joseph College in Memramcook.

He was pastor of St. John the Baptist Parish in Herington (1903) and Our Lady of Perpetual Help Cathedral in Concordia (1904-06.) He was assistant pastor at St. Joseph Parish in St. Joseph (1907) and pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish in Grinnell and its missions (1908).

He returned to Canada, then moved to the Diocese of Alton, Ill. (now Springfield), where he served in Alton (1924), Pawnee (1925), Kincaid (1925-28) and Livingston (1928-42), where he retired.

In Kincaid, he is said to have paid for the church's tower and bell and a large brick school, as well as clearing the parish's debt.

He is buried in Calvary Cemetery, Springfield, Ill.

SEPT. 7, 1955

Msgr. Joseph Bernard Glynn



Msgr. Glynn was born March 30, 1877, in County Clare, Ireland, to Thomas and Belinda (Geoghegan) Glynn. He attended St. Flannan College and St. Patrick College and was ordained June 1, 1901, in Carlow, Ireland, for the Diocese of Concordia.

He was pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Atwood, with missions in St. Francis, Studer Settlement, Bohemian Settlement and Tully (1901-04), St. John the Evangelist Parish in Herington, with a mission in Hope (1904-24), St. John the Baptist Parish in Beloit (1924-40) and Immaculate Conception Parish in Solomon (1940-54).

He built the church and rectory in Herington and the church in Hope. He was a diocesan consultor for 32 years and worked on the marriage tribunal for 28 years. He was named a monsignor in 1942.

He is buried in Mount Calvary Cemetery in Salina.

SEPT. 9, 1954

Rev. John H. Lenaghan



Rev. Lenaghan was born April 1, 1902, in County Armagh, Ireland, to Peter and Bridget (McCoy) Lenaghan. Following the deaths of his parents, he came to New York and enrolled at St. Bonaventure College and Seminary in Allegheny. He was ordained May 28, 1928, in Buffalo, N.Y., for the Diocese of Concordia.

He was assistant pastor in Colby, Norton, Concordia and Aurora, with missions in Meredith and Miltonvale.

He was pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish in Minneapolis, with missions in Ada, Barnard and Vine Creek (1930-33) and SS. Peter and Paul Parish in Clay Center (1933-46), chaplain at St. Joseph Hospital in Concordia (1946), pastor of SS. Peter and Paul Parish in Cawker City, with a mission in Downs (1946-47) and chaplain at St. Joseph Orphanage in Abilene and assistant pastor at St. Phillip Parish in Hope (1947).

He suffered from numerous health problems and was granted an extended leave of absence. He died following surgery.

He is buried in St. Joseph Cemetery in Texas, Md., a suburb of Baltimore, next to the graves of his great uncle, Rev. Peter Lenaghan, and his uncle, Rev. Patrick Lenaghan, both natives of Ireland.

SEPT. 10, 1957

Msgr. William J. Butzer



Msgr. Butzer was born Nov. 6, 1892, in Salina to William and Amelia (Stolper) Butzer. He attended local public schools and earned a degree at the University of Kansas. He served in the Army during World War I, then was a high school principal in Assaria. He converted to Catholicism and attended St. Mary College in St. Mary's and Kenrick Seminary in St. Louis and was ordained by Bishop Francis Tief on June 11, 1922.

He was temporary administrator at St. Columba Parish in Elmo and St. Patrick Parish in Gypsum (1922), chaplain at St. John Hospital in Salina (1922- 23), temporary administrator at Sacred Heart Parish in Esbon and its missions in Mankato, Jewell and Formoso (1923-24) and assistant pastor at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Cathedral in Concordia and its mission in Jamestown (1924-25).

He was pastor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Goodland (1925-40) and St. John the Baptist Parish in Beloit (1940-57). He also temporarily oversaw parishes and missions in Tipton, Lincoln, Vesper, Glasco, Downs and Jamestown while in Beloit.

He was named a monsignor in 1949. The present Goodland church was built during his tenure, and St. John's High School and gymnasium in Beloit were built while he served there.

He is buried in St. John Cemetery in Beloit.

SEPT. 12, 2003

Msgr. Emil E. Sinner



Msgr. Sinner was born Jan. 4, 1917, in Tipton to Edward and Elizabeth (Matheis) Sinner. He attended St. Joseph Military Academy in Hays and Kenrick Seminary in St. Louis. He was ordained May 30, 1942, at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Cathedral in Concordia.

He was assistant pastor at Seven Dolors Parish in Manhattan (1942-44), St. John the Baptist Parish in Hanover (1944), Our Lady of Perpetual Help Cathedral in Concordia and St. Mary Parish in Jamestown (1944-45) and SS. Peter and Paul Parish in Clay Center (1945-46).

He was associate editor of The Register while in Clay Center and assistant to the bishop and assistant pastor at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Salina (1946-50).

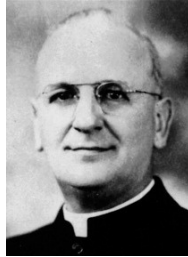
He was pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Oberlin (1950-62), Holy Cross Parish in Pfeifer (1962-65) and St. Wenceslaus Parish in Wilson (1965-93).

He was named a monsignor in 1982.

He retired to Wilson, where he died, and is buried in St. Wenceslaus Cemetery.

SEPT. 14, 1978

Rev. Peter O. Bergeron



Rev. Bergeron was born Oct. 7, 1896, in Londonderry, N.H., to Elucipe and Victoria (Perreault) Bergeron. He attended St. Augustine Grammar School and St. Augustine Academy in Manchester, N.H. He studied at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Sherbrooke, Canada, St. Mary Seminary in Baltimore and College of Saint-Laurent in Montreal. He was ordained June 14, 1924, by Bishop Georges Gauthier at the cathedral in Montreal for the Diocese of Concordia.

He was an assistant pastor at Sacred Heart Parish in Salina and assistant chaplain at Marymount College in Salina (1924-25) and assistant pastor at St. Paul Parish in Angelus (1925).

He was pastor of St. Peter Parish in Wallace, St. Joseph Parish in Oakley and Holy Ghost Parish in Sharon Springs (1925-32), St. Joseph Parish in St. Joseph (1932-59) and St. Joseph Parish in Damar (1959-68). He was chaplain at St. Thomas Hospital in Colby (1968-77).

He retired in 1977, to Manchester, N.H., and died at Mount Carmel Nursing Home in Manchester. He is buried in St. Augustine Cemetery in Manchester.

SEPT. 15, 1893

Rev. Francis A. Carius

Rev. Carius was born Dec. 31, 1821, in Altenstadt, Germany. He came to America in April 1845 and was ordained by Bishop de la Hailandiere in Vincennes, Ill., on March 11, 1846.

He served in St. John, Ind., (1846-51) and Logansport, Ind., (1852-55).

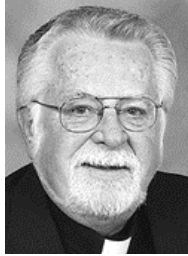
He came to the Diocese of Leavenworth and served in Eudora (1872-74).

He was assistant pastor for one year and then pastor at St. Francis Xavier Parish in Junction City, with missions in Chapman, Dry Creek, Skiddy, Abilene, Hope, McDowell Creek, Fort Riley and Ogden (1876-83). He was pastor in Paola (1884) and pastor of St. Bernard Parish in Ellsworth, with missions in Brookville and Lincoln (1886-89).

A history of the Diocese of Fort Wayne, Ind., states that he was serving as chaplain of the Ursuline Convent in St. Louis when he died. His burial site is unknown.

SEPT. 20, 2015

Rev. Aloysius Balthasar Brungardt



Rev. Brungardt was born Feb. 26, 1943, in Salina to Dr. Balthaser and Margaret (Schwerman) Brungardt.

He attended Sacred Heart Grade School and graduated from Sacred Heart High School in Salina. He attended Loras College in Dubuque, Iowa and Cardinal Glennon College in St. Louis and completed his seminary education at Conception Seminary College in Conception, Mo. He also earned a certificate in clinic pastoral ministry.

He was ordained June 12, 1971, by Bishop Cyril Vogel at St. Fidelis Church in Victoria.

He was parochial vicar at St. Francis Xavier Parish in Junction City and St. John the Baptist Parish in Beloit (both during 1971), St. Joseph Parish in New Almelo (1972) and again at Junction City (1973-75). He was pastor of St. John the Evangelist Parish in Logan and St. Mary Parish in Densmore (1975-81), as part of a team ministry project also serving St. Joseph in New Almelo, Sacred Heart Parish in Selden, Immaculate Conception Parish in Leoville and Sacred Heart Parish in Oberlin. He was chaplain of St. John Hospital in Salina and moderator of the Diocesan Office of Family Life (1981- 87). During that time, he also was parochial vicar at St. Mary, Queen of the Universe Parish in Salina (1983-87).

He was pastor of St. Aloysius Gonzaga Parish in Osborne, St. Mary Parish in Downs and St. Mary Parish in Smith Center (1987-91), Sacred Heart Parish in Plainville and St. Ann Parish in Zurich (1991-97) and St. Francis Xavier in Junction City (1997-2013). During his assignments in Junction City, he also provided outreach ministry to soldiers and their families stationed at nearby Fort Riley. A nephew was Bishop John Brungardt of Dodge City, previously a priest of the Diocese of Wichita. He retired from active ministry in July 2013 and moved to Victoria.

He is buried in St. Fidelis Cemetery in Victoria.

SEPT. 21, 1982

Msgr. Ignatius J. Manzo



Msgr. Manzo was born Dec. 9, 1915, in Tinguindin, Michoacan, Mexico, to Antonio and Guadalupe (Mendez) Manzo. His family moved to Goodland while he was a child, and he attended local schools. He graduated from St. Joseph Military Academy in Hays and attended St. Thomas Seminary in Denver and Kenrick Seminary in St. Louis. He was ordained Feb. 13, 1944, by Bishop Frank Thill at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Cathedral in Concordia.

He was the first Hispanic priest ordained in the diocese. As a seminarian, he instructed Spanish-speaking children in Kanopolis during summer catechism school.

He was assistant pastor at St. Wenceslaus Parish in Wilson, with missions in Holyrood and Kanopolis (1944-46). He was administrator of St. Mary Parish in Holyrood, later adding administrative responsibilities for Kanopolis (1948) and Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in Salina (1951).

St. Ignatius Loyola in Kanopolis became a parish in 1950, and he was its first resident pastor. He acquired the chapel building from the former Camp Phillips air base at Salina and had it moved 35 miles for use as the first church. He was pastor of Holy Ghost Parish in Sharon Springs and St. Peter Parish in Wallace (1958- 67), SS. Peter and Paul Parish in Clay Center (1967-80) and assistant pastor at Sacred Heart Cathedral (1980- 82).

He retired in 1982, the same year he was named a monsignor.

He was active in the Boy Scout organization and received its top two honors.

He is buried in Mount Calvary Cemetery in Salina.

SEPT. 22, 2024

Rev. Charles Lee Steier



Rev. Steier was born March 26, 1947, in Belleville, Kansas, to Melvin and Mildred (Kalivoda) Steier. Charlie grew up on a farm near Haddam, Kansas, as the oldest child, with five brothers and two sisters.

Fr. Steier studied at St. Mary College in St. Mary, Kentucky; Immaculate Conception Seminary in Conception, Missouri; and Kenrick Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri. He was ordained on June 8, 1973, by Bishop Cyril Vogel at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church in Concordia.

He began his first assignment as a parochial vicar from 1973 to 1977, at St. John the Baptist in Beloit and later at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Hays. Beginning in 1977, he went on to lead numerous parishes as a pastor, including St. Joseph in St. Joseph; St. Isidore in Cuba; Saints Philip and James in Phillipsburg; St. Mary in Smith Center; St. Francis in Claudell; St. Bernard in Ellsworth; St. Ignatius in Kanopolis; St. Mary in Holyrood; St. Mary Queen of Angels in Russell; and St. Mary Help of Christians in Gorham. His service as a pastor concluded in 2024 at Christ the King Parish in WaKeeney and St. Michael Parish in Collyer.

Fr. Charlie also served as the State Chaplain for the Kansas Knights of Columbus, Diocesan Moderator, Vicarate Moderator, and was a member of the Catholic Charities Board for many years. He was also elected to the Priests Council and the Personnel Board.

A Mass of Christian Burial took place at St. Mary Queen of Angels Catholic Church, Russell, on Friday, September 27, 2024, with interment at St. Bernard Catholic Cemetery, Clara (north of Clifton).

SEPT. 22, 1965

Bishop Francis J. Tief



Bishop Tief was born March 7, 1881, in East Port Chester, Conn., to John and Catherine (Glynn) Tief. He studied at Niagara University and St. Bonaventure College and Seminary, both in New York. He was ordained June 13, 1908, by Buffalo Bishop Charles Colton for the Diocese of Hartford.

He served briefly in the Archdiocese of New York, then in the Diocese of Kansas City, Mo., where he was the first resident pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Webb City, Mo. He was named rector of Immaculate Conception Cathedral in 1910 and appointed vicar general in 1916.

He was appointed bishop of Concordia on Dec. 16, 1920, and consecrated on March 30, 1921, in the Kansas City cathedral. He was installed at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Cathedral in Concordia on April 6, 1921.

He resigned June 11, 1938, because of ill health and retired to St. Francis Health Resort, operated by the Sisters of the Sorrowful Mother, in Denville, N.J. where he died 27 years later.

He is buried in St. Francis Cemetery in Denville.

SEPT. 22, 1992

Msgr. Joseph E. Weimer



Msgr. Weimer was born Nov. 2, 1913, in Lancaster, N.Y., to John and Florence (Lambrix) Weimer. He attended St. Bonaventure College and Seminary in Buffalo, N.Y. He was ordained June 7, 1941, by Bishop Frank Thill at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Cathedral in Concordia.

He served temporary appointments at Aurora, Oberlin, Clyde, Kimeo and Norton. He was assistant pastor at St. Wenceslaus Parish in Wilson, St. Mary Parish in Holyrood and St. Ignatius Loyola Parish in Kanopolis (1941-43) and St. Francis Xavier Parish in Junction City (1943-45). He was chaplain at Marymount College in Salina and assistant pastor at St. Joseph Parish in Brookville (1945-51).

He was pastor at Sacred Heart Parish in Plainville (1951-67), St. Mary, Queen of the Universe Parish in Salina (1967-70), St. Thomas Parish in Stockton (1975- 80), St. Bernard Parish in Ellsworth (1980-82) and St. Joseph Parish in Damar (1982-84). He took a five-year sabbatical due to ill health (1970-75) and lived in Buffalo, N.Y.

He was named a monsignor in 1982. While in Plainville, he supervised the construction of the church, school and sisters' convent.

He retired in 1984 and moved to Buffalo and later Port Charlotte, Fla., where he died. He is buried in St. Mary Cemetery in Lancaster, N.Y.

SEPT. 23, 2016

Rev. Lawrence (Larry) Pierce



Rev. Pierce was born December 24, 1932, in Ft. Riley, Kansas to Dewey and Mary (Butler) Pierce. He attended St. Louis Preparatory Seminary in St. Louis, MO; Kenrick Seminary in St. Louis, MO. He was ordained March 22, 1958, by Bishop Frederick Freking at St. Francis Xavier Church in Junction City.

After his ordination his assignments were as follows: Parochial Vicar at St. John the Baptist Parish in Clyde with St. Isidore Parish in Cuba and SS. Peter and Paul Parish in Morrowville (1958-59), Parochial Vicar at St. John the Baptist Parish in Beloit (1959-61), Parochial Vicar at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Salina Instructor at Sacred Heart High School (1961-62), Pastor at St. Patrick Parish in Lincoln (1962-66).

He became assistant editor of the NW Kansas Register in May 1962, Marymount Chaplain (1966-67), he became a Member of the Board of Synodal Examiners in September of 1966, Substitute Administrator of St. Frances Cabrini Parish, Hoxie and St. Martin of Tours Parish, Seguin (1967), Pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Greenleaf and St. Michael Parish in Kimeo (1967-69), Pastor of St. John the Evangelist Parish in Herington (1969 -71), Editor of the N.W. Kansas Register (1971-75), dedicated the St. John Parish Hall, Herington (Spring 1978), Pastor of Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Grinnell and St. Paul Parish in Angelus (1983- 1992).

He retired in 1992 and resided in Oakley and Hoxie. He is buried in Ft. Riley.

SEPT. 24, 1951

Rev. Thomas O'Donohoe



Rev. O'Donohoe was born Sept. 13, 1887, in Donmore, Ireland. He studied at St. Patrick College in Cavan, Ireland, and was ordained June 12, 1910, for the Diocese of Concordia.

He was assistant pastor at St. John the Baptist Parish in Beloit (1910). He was a pastor in the Wichita Diocese (1910-13), chaplain at Nazareth Motherhouse in Concordia (1913- 21), pastor at St. Paul Parish in Angelus (1921-22) and assistant pastor at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Cathedral in Concordia (1923).

He was granted a leave of absence from 1923 to 1942, during which time he served in the Archdiocese of Detroit. He returned to the Concordia Diocese and was an assistant pastor at Sacred Heart Parish in Salina (1942-45) and chaplain at St. Thomas Hospital in Colby (1945-51).

He is buried in St. Concordia Cemetery in Concordia.

SEPT. 26, 2021

Rev. Merlin Kieffer



Rev. Kieffer was born on a farm near Clifton, KS on March 5, 1934, the second youngest of 6 children of Peter and Anna Kieffer. He attended a country school until 1945 when the family moved to a farm near Hanover. He finished elementary school at St. John's School, Hanover [grades 6-8] and attended high school at St. Francis Seminary, Victoria, KS, and was part of the 1st graduating class. He was sent by Bishop Frank Thill for the eight years of college and theology to St. Gregory and Mount St. Mary's of the West in Cincinnati, Ohio, where he received an MA in Philosophy.

On May 26, 1960 he was ordained priest for the Diocese of Salina at his home parish of St. John's, Hanover. Following ordination, he did graduate work in counseling psychology for 4 summers at Catholic University in Washington D.C. and was guidance counselor and instructor in Latin and Church History at the Catholic high school in Concordia and at Luckey High, Manhattan.

He served at Concordia from 1960-63, and at Seven Dolours and Luckey High from '63 to '71, while also serving in parish ministry as associate pastor. From 1964 to '71 he was also Pastor of St. Patrick's, Ogdan. In the summer of '71 he was named Pastor of the Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Goodland where he served for 9 years. The new bishop, Daniel Kucera, called him to serve as the Director of Education and Superintendent of the Schools of the Salina Diocese in June of 1971. After preparatory summer courses at the University of San Francisco, Fr. Kieffer served a 5-year term in this capacity along with care of St. Patrick Parish, Gypsum, and later for 3 years at St. Bernard's, Ellsworth. While Superintendent of Schools he served on the Kansas Bishops' Board of Governors as representative of the 4 dioceses in Catholic Education.

From 1983 to '86 he served as pastor at St. John's Parish, Beloit with pastoral supervision over its K through 12 Catholic school system. While there he initiated the annual school auction fundraiser.

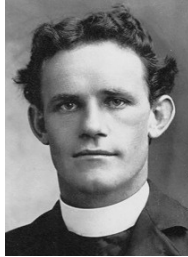
After a one-year term as Pastor of Sacred Heart Cathedral, Salina, in July of 1988, he received a previously requested sabbatical year. Fr. Kieffer spent the fall semester as a graduate student at Notre Dame in a special renewal program of theology, Scripture, and spirituality for priests and religious, consisting of refresher courses to update all aspects of priestly life and service.

Following his return to the States in the summer of 1989, Father was assigned to the parishes of St. Frances Cabrini, Hoxie and St. Martin, Seguin, where he served for 11 years until July of 2000. While at Hoxie he served a term as Rotary Club President in addition to other leadership offices and was privileged to have the Club make him a Paul Harris Fellow.

In July, 2000, he succeeded Fr. Loren Werth as Pastor at SS Peter & Paul, Clay Center and St. Anthony, Miltonvale. In July of 2005, Father Kieffer, due to some health problems, retired from pastoral administration and assisted in sacramental ministry at Seven Dolors Parish, Manhattan. In addition to sacramental ministry, Fr. Kieffer lead and supervised the parish ministry parishioners who were sick, homebound, in the hospital and in local care homes. He assigned and oversaw parish volunteers who assisted in this ministry. He is buried in St. Mary's Cemetery in Clifton, Kansas.

SEPT. 28, 1946

Rev. Martin J. Schmitt



Rev. Schmitt was born March 4, 1873, in Baltimore to John and Dorathea (Toephner) Schmitt. He studied at St. Charles College in Ellicot City, Md., and St. Bonaventure Seminary in Allegany, N.Y. He was ordained May 24, 1902, in Buffalo, N.Y., by Bishop James Quigley for the Diocese of Concordia.

He was pastor at St. Paul Parish in Angelus, with missions in Oakley, Park and Seguin (1902-07), Immaculate Conception Parish in Leoville, with missions in Selden and Oberlin (1907-38) and Sacred Heart Parish in Colby (1938-46).

He was known as a builder and built the rectory in Park, a sisters' home and school in Angelus, the first church in Seguin and in Leoville a church, rectory, sisters' home, high school and grade school and later rebuilt the present-day church after the previous church burned. After being sent to Colby, the church there burned, and he made plans for rebuilding it, although World War II delayed the work until after his death.

He is buried in Sacred Heart Cemetery in Colby.

OCT. 4, 1979

Bishop Cyril J. Vogel



Bishop Vogel was born Jan. 15, 1905, in Pittsburgh to Henry and Mary (Foley) Vogel. He graduated from Duquesne University and studied at St. Vincent Seminary in Latrobe, Pa. He was ordained June 7, 1931, for the Diocese of Pittsburgh. He was pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Sagamore, director of adult education and a member of the diocesan tribunal.

A change of diocesan boundaries in 1951 placed his parish in the Diocese of Greensburg. He served St. John Baptist de la Salle Parish in Delmont, Pa., and Holy Family Parish in Latrobe and was chancellor of the diocese. He was appointed vicar general in 1960.

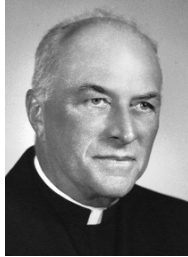
He was appointed bishop of Salina on April 10, 1965, and consecrated June 17, 1965, in the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament in Greensburg, Pa. He was installed June 25, 1965, at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Salina.

His brother, Capuchin Father Claude Vogel, former rector of St. Francis Minor Seminary in Victoria, concelebrated the Mass.

He died of an apparent heart attack at his desk in the Chancery. He is buried in Mount Calvary Cemetery in Salina.

OCT. 5, 1965

Rev. Nicholas Peters



Rev. Peters was born March 24, 1898, in Mankato, Minn., to Michael and Mary (Buchholz) Peters. He studied at St. Thomas College in St. Paul, Minn., and St. Benedict College in Atchison. He was ordained by Bishop Francis Tief on Dec. 18, 1932, at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Cathedral in Concordia.

He was pastor of St. Mary, Help of Christians Parish in Gorham (1933-64). He retired in 1964 after suffering a stroke. He lived at St. John Rest Home in Victoria until his death.

He is buried in Holy Rosary Cemetery in Mankato, Minn.

OCT. 10, 1975

Msgr. William H. Merchant



Msgr. Merchant was born March 29, 1911, in Rochester, N.Y., to Harry and Lillian (Gotesbend) Merchant. He attended local schools, then Venard Preparatory Seminary in Clarks Summit, Pa. He graduated from Venard College and St. Bonaventure University, then attended Christ the King Seminary at St. Bonaventure. He was ordained June 11, 1938, by Bishop John Duffy in Buffalo, N.Y.

He was an assistant pastor at Sacred Heart Parish and chaplain at St. John Hospital in Salina (1938-39), assistant pastor at St. Mary of the Assumption Parish in Clifton and its missions in Clara and Morrowville (1939) and assistant pastor at St. Francis Xavier Parish in Junction City (1939-40).

He was pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Selden (1940-46), SS. Peter and Paul Parish in Clay Center (1946-54) and Seven Dolors Parish in Manhattan (1954-68) and rector of Sacred Heart Cathedral (1968- 75).

Msgr. Merchant died in California while visiting friends after returning early to the United States from a pilgrimage to Rome.

He was named a monsignor on Nov. 13, 1949.

He was diocesan director of the Catholic Youth Organization (1948-63) and was regional director for Kansas, Missouri and Oklahoma for the National Catholic Youth Council. He accompanied Bishop Frederick Freking on one of his journeys to the Second Vatican Council sessions in Rome.

He is buried in Mount Calvary Cemetery in Salina.

OCT. 11, 1925

Rev. Patrick J. Colleran

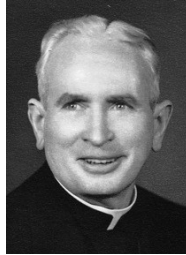
Rev. Colleran was born March 17, 1870, in County Mayo, Ireland. He attended school in Ireland and then Brooklyn, N.Y. He studied at St. Mary College in Baltimore and St. Bonaventure Seminary in New York and was ordained June 1, 1901, by Bishop James Quigley in Buffalo, N.Y.

He came to the Diocese of Concordia, where he was appointed private secretary to Bishop John Cunningham while serving at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Cathedral in Concordia (1902-04). He was pastor of SS. Peter and Paul Parish in Clay Center (1905-09) and St. John the Baptist Parish in Clyde (1910-14), chaplain at Nazareth Motherhouse in Concordia (1912-13) and pastor at Sacred Heart Parish in Esbon (1922-23) and St. Columba's Parish in Elmo (1924-25).

He is buried in Nazareth Motherhouse Cemetery in Concordia.

OCT. 11, 1978

Rev. Daniel Mulvihill



Rev. Mulvihill was born July 22, 1896, in County Kerry, Ireland, to Michael and Nora (Mulvihill) Mulvihill. He was the third of eight children in the family, following his brother, Msgr. Michael Mulvihill, and his sister, Mary Ann, later Sister Ann Joseph of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Concordia, to serve in the Diocese of Concordia and, later, the Diocese of Salina.

He attended All Hallows College in Dublin and was ordained on June 19, 1927, by Australian Bishop John Norton for the Concordia Diocese.

He was assistant pastor at Sacred Heart Parish in Salina (1927-30).

He was pastor of St. Patrick Parish in Lincoln (1930-43), Sacred Heart Parish in Plainville (1943-51), St. John the Baptist Parish in Clyde, with missions in Cuba and Morrowville (1951-60), Sacred Heart Parish in Greenleaf (1960-63) and St. Columba Parish in Elmo and St. Patrick Parish in Gypsum (1963-67).

He retired and moved to Seguin to live with his retired brother, Msgr. Michael Mulvihill, until his brother's death later that year. He then moved to a retirement home for priests in Kansas City, Mo.

He is buried next to his brother at St. Martin of Tours Parish cemetery in Seguin.

A nephew, Rev. Daniel Mulvihill, his namesake, was a priest in the Diocese of Wichita and died in 2006.

OCT. 12, 1975

Rev. Eugene Senecal



Rev. Senecal was born Feb. 18, 1912, in Zurich, Kan., to John and Priscilla (Prairie) Senecal. He attended St. Benedict College in Atchison and St. Thomas Aquinas Theological Seminary in Denver. He was ordained May 18, 1940, by Bishop Frank Thill at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Cathedral in Concordia.

He served temporarily at Immaculate Conception Parish in Grinnell, then was assistant pastor at Sacred Heart Parish in Park (1940-43), St. John the Baptist Parish in Hanover (1943-44) and St. Peter Parish in Aurora and its missions (1944-47).

He was pastor at Sacred Heart Parish in Oberlin and its missions (1947-50), Immaculate Conception Parish in Minneapolis (1950-52), St. Michael Parish in Kimeo and its missions (1952-57), St. John the Evangelist Parish in Herington (1957-67), Immaculate Conception Parish in Grinnell (1967-71) and St. Paul Parish in Angelus (1971-75).

Rev. Senecal was returning from a tour of Rome when he collapsed in Amsterdam and died of an apparent heart attack. He is buried in the parish cemetery in Grinnell.

Two of his brothers became priests and three of his sisters were women religious. Msgr. Francis Senecal was a priest of the Diocese of Concordia and Salina, and Benedictine Father Lucien Senecal was a monk at St. Benedict Abbey in Atchison. Joining the Sisters of Mercy were Sister Mary Natalie and Sister Angelita, and joining the Benedictine Sisters in Atchison was Sister Mary Lucienne. Three nephews are Benedictines: Abbot Barnabas Senecal, Father Gerard Senecal and Father Nicholas Senecal of St. Benedict Abbey of Atchison.

OCT. 14, 1970

Rev. Anthony Dominic Bevak



Rev. Bevak was born Sept. 22, 1905, in De Lancey, Pa., to Samuel and Mary (Gagliardo) Bevak. He attended St. Adrian Parochial and High School in De Lancey. He studied at St. Mary College in Erie, Pa., Catholic University of America in Washington and the Discalced Carmelites House of Studies in Barcelona, Spain. He earned a theological degree at St. Bonaventure Seminary in New York.

Rev. Bevak entered the Discalced Carmelites as a novitiate on June 1, 1926, and made his temporary vows in June 1927. He was asked to be dispensed from those vows in 1929. He was ordained May 21, 1932, by Bishop William Turner at St. Joseph Cathedral in Buffalo, N.Y., for the Diocese of Concordia.

He was assistant at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Concordia (1932-35). He was pastor of St. Michael Parish in Kimeo (1935-39) and St. Mary Parish in Glasco and St. Paul Parish in Delphos (1948-51).

He returned to Pennsylvania due to ill health in 1951 and died there. He is buried in Calvary Cemetery in Punxsutawney, Pa.

OCT. 20, 1971

Msgr. Cornelius J. Brown



Msgr. Brown was born March 13, 1910, in West Harpersfield, N.Y., to Floyd and Anna (Johnson) Brown. He attended public school in Stamford, N.Y., then St. Jerome College in Ontario, Canada, and St. Bonaventure Seminary in New York. He also attended The Register School of Journalism at the University of Denver and Fordham University. He was ordained May 24, 1936, by Bishop Francis Tief at St. Bonaventure Seminary.

He was an assistant at Annunciation Parish in Denver while studying journalism (1936) and was the first editor and business manager of The Register (1937-41). He was chaplain at Home of the Little Flower in Concordia (1938-41) and St. Joseph Hospital in Concordia (1941-44).

He was pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish in Minneapolis (1944), St. Edward Parish in Belleville and St. George Parish in Munden (1944-63), St. Andrew Parish in Abilene (1963-66) and St. John the Baptist Parish in Beloit (1966-71).

He was director of Catholic youth (1941-48), superintendent of schools (1941-71), diocesan Scout chaplain (1941-68) and provided public relations for the diocese.

He was named a monsignor in 1949 and was named diocesan director for educational activities shortly before his death. He was a woodworker and constructed many altars for parishes in the diocese.

He is buried in Stamford, N.Y.

OCT. 22, 2021

Rev. Roger Meitl



Born in Leoville April 9, 1933, near Leoville, he attended Leoville Grade School and Leoville High School. He attended Conception Seminary College, Conception, Missouri, and Kenrick Seminary, St. Louis. He was ordained on March 14, 1959, at Immaculate Conception Church, Leoville.

From 1959 – 1961 he was assistant at St. Mary, Queen of the Universe, Salina, and taught at Sacred Heart High School. 1961 – 1962 he moved and was assistant at Sacred Heart, Plainville. Then 1962 – 1963 was the administrator at St. Wenceslaus, Wilson. From 1963 – 1967 he was the administrator at Sacred Heart, Esbon, and St. Mary's, Smith Center. 1967 – 1973 Fr. Meitl was administrator at St. Mary the Assumption, Clifton, and St. Bernard's, Clara, as well as administrator of the mission, St. Michael Parish, Kimeo. From 1973 – 1982 he was moved and was pastor at Sacred Heart, Colby. In 1982 – 1984 he was pastor at Immaculate Heart of Mary, Hays; also, pastor of the mission church, Our Lady, Help of Christians, Antonino. After that he was Pastor at St. Mary's, Russell from 1984 – 1987. Next, he was Assistant at St. John the Baptist, Beloit, and pastor at the mission parish St. Mary Church, Jamestown (until it closed in 1989), and chaplain at Nazareth Motherhouse in Concordia, St. Joseph's Hospital and Mount Joseph Senior Village in Concordia (1987-1993). He was then the Pastor at St. Joseph's, Oakley, Immaculate Conception, Grinnell, and St. Paul's, Angelus (1993 – 2005). From 2000 – 2002 Fr. Meitl was Canonical pastor at St. Frances Cabrini, Hoxie, and St. Martin of Tours, Seguin (oversight of international priests). 2002 – 2003 he was the Canonical pastor at Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Goodland (substituting for pastor on sabbatical). From 2003 – 2006 Fr. Meitl was Canonical pastor at Sacred Heart, Oberlin, Sacred Heart, Selden, and Immaculate Conception, Leoville (oversight for international priests). His final assignment was Pastor at St. Francis of Assisi, St. Francis, and St. Joseph's, Bird City (2005 – 2006). He moved to assisted living in Wichita in 2006. Fr. Meitl celebrated his 50th jubilee in 2009. He was buried in the adjacent church cemetery next to his parents in Leoville, KS at the Immaculate Conception Church Cemetery.

OCT. 22, 1921

Rev. Herman Joseph Weber



Rev. Weber was born Feb. 22, 1873, in Urft, Germany. He was ordained April 6, 1906. He studied in Vienna and completed seminary at St. Meinrad, Ind. He was ordained in 1906 by Bishop John Cunningham for the Diocese of Concordia.

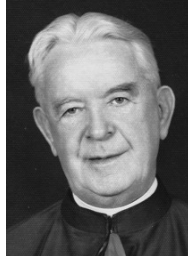
He was the first resident pastor of St. Michael Parish in Collyer, but only for part of 1906. He then returned to Germany for a year.

He then was pastor of St. Bernard Parish in Clara (1909-13), St. Mary of the Assumption Parish in Clifton (1914-16) and St. Martin of Tours Parish in Seguin and its missions in Grinnell, Grainfield and Oakley (1917- 21).

He died at St. Anthony Hospital in Hays and is buried in the parish cemetery in Loretto, Kan., located 4 miles south of Pfeifer in what is now the Diocese of Dodge City.

OCT. 25, 1962

Msgr. Christopher J. Roche



Msgr. Roche was born Dec. 25, 1883, in County Clare, Ireland, and was ordained to the priesthood June 14, 1908, in Carlow, Ireland. He came to the Diocese of Concordia that same year.

He was pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Esbon, with missions in Mankato, Jewell City, Formosa, Burr Oak and Smith Center (1908-13), St. Patrick Parish in Ogden, its mission in McDowell Creek (1913-30) and St. Andrew Parish in Abilene (1930-62). He was a military chaplain at Fort Riley during World War I.

He was named a monsignor in 1948.

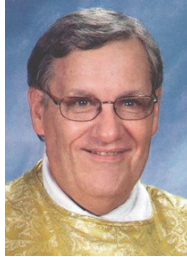
He is buried in the parish cemetery in Abilene.

While serving in Abilene during the Depression, he proposed that parishioners themselves dig a basement beneath the existing church to provide space for a parish hall, meetings and receptions. Armed with shovels, picks and wheelbarrows, parishioners removed thousands of cubic feet of dirt and rock, which was taken away in a horse-drawn cart, and poured concrete foundations, walls and a floor.

He was pastor in Abilene when the town's most famous resident, Gen. Dwight Eisenhower, commanded Allied Forces in Europe during World War II, then served as U.S. president from 1953 to 1961. On several occasions when the president visited Abilene, Msgr. Roche gave the invocation at the gathering.

OCT. 26, 2007

Rev. Albert Michael DeSanctis



Rev. DeSanctis was born March 16, 1947, in Bronx, N.Y., to Albert and Barbara (Edwards) DeSanctis. He attended William Penn College in Oskaloosa, Iowa, and graduated from Bethany College in Lindsborg with a degree in English. He later earned a master's degree in English from the University of Kansas. He taught at St. John Catholic High School in Beloit for four years before entering the Pontifical College Josephinum School of Theology in Columbus, Ohio. He was ordained Oct. 25, 1980, by Bishop Daniel Kucera at St. John the Baptist Church in Beloit.

He was an assistant pastor at Beloit (1980-81), St. Mary, Queen of the Universe Parish in Salina (1981-83) and Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Hays (1983- 84).

He was pastor of St. John the Baptist Parish in Hanover, Sacred Heart Parish in Greenleaf and St. Michael Parish in Kimeo (1984-93), St. Francis Xavier Parish in Junction City (1993-97), St. Boniface Parish in Tipton and SS. Peter and Paul Parish in Cawker City (1997-2004) and St. Mary Parish in Ellis (2004-07).

He is buried in St. John Cemetery in Hanover.

OCT. 27, 1919

Rev. John Walleser



Rev. Walleser was born April 3, 1853, in Schoenau, Baden, Germany. He studied at Benedictine College in Switzerland, the University of Baden in Wurtzburg, Bavaria, and St. Meinrad University in Indiana. He was ordained April 19, 1886, in Leavenworth for the Diocese of Leavenworth.

He served Corpus Christi Parish in Mooney Creek in Jefferson County (1887-91). He then came to the Diocese of Concordia. He was pastor at St. Bernard Parish in Clara (1897-1901), St. Boniface Parish in Tipton (1902-07) and St. Mary of the Assumption Parish in Clifton (1908-09). He was chaplain at St. Joseph Orphanage in Abilene (1910). He was pastor of St. Paul Parish in Angelus (1914-16) and St. Mary, Help of Christians Parish in Gorham (1917- 19).

He is buried in St. Mary Cemetery in Gorham.

OCT. 29, 1960

Rev. Christian Adam Dreiling



Rev. Dreiling was born Aug. 21, 1887, in Russia to Nicholas and Rosa (Haas) Dreiling. The family emigrated to St. Peter, Kan., where he attended grade and high school. He attended St. Meinrad College in Indiana and Kenrick Seminary in St. Louis. He was ordained for the Diocese of Dallas-Fort Worth on May 5, 1915.

He served in Henrietta, Texas, until 1923, when he was incardinated in the Diocese of Concordia. He was pastor of St. Martin of Tours Parish in Seguin (1923-26), Sacred Heart Parish in Oberlin, with a mission in Phillipsburg (1926-28), Sacred Heart Parish in Selden (1928-30), St. Michael Parish in Col-lyer (1930-34) and again in Oberlin (1934-35).

He took a leave of absence due to ill health (1935-38), then was chaplain of St. John Hospital in Salina (1938-39). He was pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Park (1939-40), then retired to Hays, St. Louis and Concordia.

He died in Concordia and is buried in St. Anthony Cemetery in St. Peter.

OCT. 31, 1887

Rev. Felix Prosper Swembergh



Rev. Swembergh was born June 2, 1845, in Cassel, France, and was ordained June 29, 1868, by Bishop John Miega for the Vicariate Apostolic of Kansas.

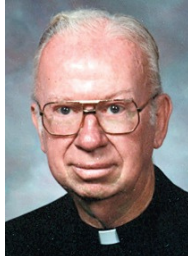
His only service in what would become the Diocese of Concordia and later the Diocese of Salina was at Immaculate Conception Parish in Solomon. He served there in the fall of 1869 and again in the fall of 1870.

He was vice president of the Seminary of the Assumption in Topeka and served frontier settlements. In 1873, he was appointed the first resident pastor of Wichita, then served in Emporia (1874), Great Bend (1875) and Newton (1877). Leavenworth Bishop Louis Fink assigned him to Assumption Parish in Topeka (1884), but he apparently did not accept the appointment and returned to Europe.

He came back in late 1885 to Florida as the first resident priest of St. James Parish in Orlando. He was among three priests who died during an outbreak of yellow fever. He is buried in St. Louis Cemetery in Tampa, Fla.

NOV. 3, 2008

Rev. Prosper John Lahey



Rev. Lahey was born Jan. 18, 1924, near Solomon to Prosper John Sr. and Nell (Ryan) Lahey. He attended local schools, then business school. He worked for a certified public accounting firm in Abilene until he was drafted by the U.S. Army in 1943. He served in the Battle of the Bulge in Europe.

Following the war, he spent 20 years as a civil servant working for the U.S. Air Force, including at the Air Defense Command in Colorado Springs, Colo., and the Pentagon.

He was accepted as a seminarian by the Diocese of Salina in 1962 and completed studies at Conception Seminary in Conception, Mo. He was ordained May 27, 1967, by Bishop Cyril Vogel at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Salina.

He was assistant pastor at St. Joseph Parish in Damar (1967), Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Concordia (1967), St. John the Baptist Parish in Beloit (1968-69) and St. Mary, Queen of the Universe Parish in Salina (1969-72).

He was chaplain at St. John Hospital in Salina (1972-81) and Marymount College in Salina (1976-81) while pastor of St. Patrick Parish in Gypsum (1978-81).

He was pastor of St. Aloysius Gonzaga Parish in Osborne (1981-85), SS. Peter and Paul Parish in Cawker City (1982-87), St. Mary Parish in Smith Center (1985- 87), Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Concordia (1987-94), St. Mary Parish in Glasco (1991-94), St. Mary Parish in Jamestown (1993-94), Immaculate Conception Parish in Solomon (1994-99) and again in Gypsum (1997-99).

He retired in June 1999 and moved to be near family in Colorado Springs, Colo., where he died. He is buried in Mount Calvary Cemetery in Solomon.

NOV. 5, 1940

Rev. Bernard Nuttman



Rev. Nuttman was born Feb. 14, 1855, in Hanover, Germany. He came to the United States at the age of 16 with an uncle and settled in Paxico.

He attended St. Francis Seminary in Milwaukee and was ordained June 28, 1878, for the Diocese of Leavenworth.

He was pastor of St. Bernard Parish in Ellsworth and St. Patrick Parish in Lincoln (1878-79) and built the first church in Lincoln. He was pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Rock Creek, later known as Flush, and its missions in Wamego, Elbow (just east of Manhattan) and Manhattan (1879-83).

He built a new church in Flush to replace the one built by the pioneer priest, Jesuit Father Louis Dumortier. He also built the first parish school. He helped Catholics in Manhattan begin negotiations to acquire land to build their first church. He built the first church in Wamego.

Leavenworth Bishop Louis Fink reassigned him in 1883, but it is unknown where.

He later served parishes in Wisconsin, including St. Martin in Ashford, Wis. (1884 and 1890-96), St. Joseph in Hazel Green, Wis., (1890) and Sacred Heart in Franklin, Wis. (1919-1937).

His burial site is unknown.

NOV. 8, 1960

Rev. Edward Anthony Taylor



Rev. Taylor was born July 10, 1900, in Belleville to Albert and Emma Taylor. He attended local schools, Sacred Heart High School in Salina and St. Benedict College in Atchison. He studied at Kenrick Seminary in St. Louis and St. Bonaventure Seminary in Allegany, N.Y.

He was ordained for the Diocese of Concordia on June 11, 1925.

He was secretary and assistant chancellor to Bishop Francis Tief, as well as pastor of St. Mary Parish in Jamestown (1925-27) and St. Aloysius Gonzaga Parish in Osborne and St. Thomas Parish in Stockton (1927- 30).

After a leave of absence, Rev. Taylor enlisted in 1933 as a chaplain in the U.S. Army and served at Civilian Conservation Corps camps in west Texas. In 1940 he transferred to the U.S. Army Air Corps and was stationed in California and Hawaii. In 1943 he transferred to the U.S. Army Medical Corps and served at military hospitals in Los Angeles and England. He suffered a heart attack in 1944 and was discharged in 1945 from the Army.

He retired to San Francisco until 1956 when he received an appointment as chaplain at Fort Miley Veterans Administration Hospital in San Francisco. He served there until his death. He is buried in Golden Gate National Military Cemetery in San Francisco.

NOV. 9, 1959

Rev. Peter Keogan



Rev. Keogan was born May 13, 1913, in County Cavan, Ireland, to Patrick and Margaret (Bough) Keogan. He attended local schools and St. Patrick College in Carlow. He was ordained June 12, 1938, by Bishop James Roche at St. Mary Cathedral in Kilkenny for the Diocese of Concordia. Two brothers, Thomas and Patrick also became priests, with Msgr. Thomas also serving in the Diocese of Concordia, later Salina. Rev. Patrick was a priest in England.

Rev. Peter Keogan was assistant pastor at St. John the Evangelist Parish in Logan (1938-39) and Sacred Heart Parish in Salina (1939-43).

He was the first resident pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish in Grinnell (1943-59) and given the responsibility of building a new church, parish office and rectory complex. He briefly was chaplain at St. Ann Home in Concordia (1959) until his death.

He is buried in St. Concordia Cemetery in Concordia.

NOV. 9, 1979

Msgr. Emil Joseph Duchene



Msgr. Duchene was born Sept. 4, 1895, in Kankakee, Ill., to Louis and Mathilda (Morin) Duchene. He attended Petit Seminaire in Montreal, Canada, and Kenrick Seminary in St. Louis. He later earned a master's degree at Catholic University of America in Washington.

He was ordained Feb. 8, 1925, by Bishop Francis Tief at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Cathedral in Concordia.

He had brief appointments (1925-26) at Seven Dolors Parish in Manhattan, the cathedral, Marymount College and St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Norton.

He was pastor of St. Agnes Parish in Grainfield (1926-39), chaplain at Nazareth Motherhouse in Concordia (1939-48) and pastor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Concordia (1948-65). He was chaplain at St. Mary Hospital in Manhattan (1965-72).

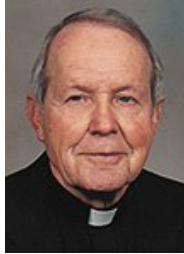
He served in various diocesan capacities, including the diocesan school board, director of summer schools, director of hospitals, director of the Catholic youth society, member of the board of consultants and service to the marriage tribunal.

He was named a monsignor on Jan. 19, 1956. Notre Dame High School in Concordia was constructed in 1961 during his tenure there.

He retired in 1972 and moved to Illinois. He died Nov. 9, 1979, and is buried in Kankakee.

NOV. 11, 2014

Rev. Carl Anthony Kramer



Rev. Kramer was born Nov. 29, 1925, in Ogden to Leo and Kathryn (Porsch) Kramer. He attended public and Catholic schools in Manhattan, then enrolled in St. Louis Preparatory Seminary, where he completed his last two years of high school and then earned philosophy and theology degrees.

He was ordained on March 9, 1952, by Bishop Frank Thill. It was the last priestly ordination in the old Sacred Heart Cathedral in Salina. His father died one year before his priestly ordination. His mother later lived with him during his assignments in Manhattan, Ogden and Junction City. She died in 1995.

He was parochial vicar at St. Andrew Parish in Abilene (1952-58), then was the first diocesan chaplain at St. Robert Bellarmine–St. Isidore Catholic Student Center in Manhattan (1958-76), overseeing its substantial growth.

He was pastor of St. Patrick Parish in Ogden (1976-82), St. Francis Xavier Parish in Junction City (1982- 84) and St. Mary, Help of Christians Parish in Gorham (1984-86.)

He was parochial vicar at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Hays (1986-97). He retired but remained in Hays and continued to provide pastoral care for several years until his health declined.

He is buried at St. Patrick Cemetery in Ogden.

NOV. 12, 1918

Rev. John Joseph O'Reilly

Rev. O'Reilly was born Sept. 17, 1885, in Ireland. He was ordained June 24, 1910, in Ireland. He was pastor at Sacred Heart Parish in Esbon (1912-18) and died during the influenza epidemic. He is buried in Nazareth Motherhouse Cemetery in Concordia. The cemetery marker lists his middle name as Gerald.

NOV. 16, 1928

Rev. Charles D. Curtin

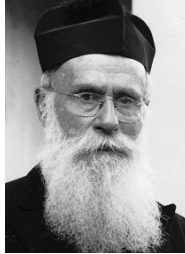
Rev. Curtin was born May 6, 1859, in County Cork, Ireland, and studied at Killarney Seminary and All Hallows Seminary in Dublin. He was ordained July 17, 1884, by Leavenworth Bishop Louis Fink.

He was pastor at Seven Dolors Parish in Manhattan (1886) and St. Michael Parish in Chapman (1887).

He later served in Kansas City, Fort Scott, Fulton and Moline. Because of failing eyesight, he was forced to give up parish work and became chaplain of Mount Carmel Hospital in Pittsburg, where he served from 1908 until his death. He is buried in St. Mary Cemetery in Pittsburg.

NOV. 16, 1952

Rev. Peter L. Burkard



Rev. Burkard was born Jan. 7, 1873, in Wernersberg, Germany. He attended the Gregorian Pontifical University in Rome and was ordained on Aug. 15, 1896. He was a member of the Congregation of the Divine Savior but left the order to come to America as a missionary in 1906.

He was pastor of Holy Cross Parish in Pfeifer (1906-25), during which time the present Gothic church was constructed, and Sacred Heart Parish in Park (1925-38).

He retired in 1938 and returned to his home in Germany. He wrote Bishop Frank Thill shortly after the end of World War II to say that he had survived the war, although his home was destroyed by Allied bombing. He died Nov. 16, 1952, in Wernersberg.

NOV. 16, 1973

Rev. Francis William Zimkosky



Rev. Zimkosky was born May 18, 1906, in New Haven, Conn., to Frank and Hannah (Kuhn) Zimkosky. He attended St. Thomas Seminary in Hartford, Conn., St. Bernard Seminary in Rochester, N.Y., and St. Bonaventure Seminary in Allegany, N.Y. He earned a master's degree and licentiate in sacred theology at Catholic University of America. He was ordained for the Diocese of Concordia on Dec. 12, 1931, in Buffalo, N.Y.

He served temporary assignments at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Cathedral in Concordia, Sacred Heart Parish in Salina and St. Andrew Parish in Abilene (1932), St. Francis Xavier Parish in Junction City (1933) and St. John the Baptist Parish in Hanover (1934).

He was pastor of St. Martin of Tours Parish in Seguin (1934-40), Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Goodland (1940-59), Immaculate Conception Parish in Leoville (1959-66), St. Aloysius Gonzaga Parish in Osborne (1966-68) and Sacred Heart Parish in Oberlin (1969-73).

He served as state chaplain to the Elks (1946-56) and state chaplain of the Knights of Columbus (1953-55).

He is buried in Mount Calvary Cemetery in Salina.

NOV. 20, 1944

Rev. John Michael Kelleher



Rev. Kelleher was born July 17, 1902, in County Kerry, Ireland, to Andrew and Mary (Teahan) Kelleher. He attended local schools and St. Brendan Preparatory Seminary in Killarney. He came to the United States and completed studies at Kenrick Seminary in St. Louis. He was ordained May 1, 1927, by Bishop Francis Tief at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Cathedral in Concordia. He had come to the Diocese of Concordia at the invitation of an uncle, Rev. Eugene Teahan, and an aunt, Sister Mary Eugenia Teahan of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Concordia.

He was assistant pastor at the cathedral, with a mission in Jamestown (1927), St. Joseph Parish in Damar (1928) and St. Ann Parish in Zurich, with missions in Palco and Stockton (1928-32).

He was pastor of St. Mary Parish in Russell and its mission in Dorrance (1932-44).

He died at the age of 42 following surgery at St. Anthony Hospital in Hays. He is buried in St. Mary Cemetery in Russell.

NOV. 22, 1972

Msgr. Samuel V. Fraser



Msgr. Fraser was born May 31, 1890, in Concordia to Francis and Flora (Berard) Fraser. He attended local schools, then St. Benedict College in Atchison and the American College Seminary in Louvain, Belgium, where he was ordained July 12, 1914.

He was pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish in Minneapolis, with missions in Ada, Barnard and Vine Creek (1914-21), St. Joseph Parish in St. Joseph (1921-29), St. Peter Parish in Aurora (1929- 58), and St. John the Baptist Parish in Beloit (1958- 66).

He was named a monsignor in 1943. His great nephew was Msgr. Armand Girard.

He was elected diocesan administrator following the death of Bishop Frank Thill in May 1957 and served until the installation of Bishop Frederick Freking in January 1958.

He retired to Salina in 1966, where he died. He is buried in St. Concordia Cemetery in Concordia.

He bequeathed a valuable botany collection to Marymount College and a coin collection to the diocese.

NOV. 23, 1928

Rev. John Hennessy



Rev. Hennessy was born Jan. 31, 1885, in County Limerick, Ireland.

Rev. Hennessy studied at St. Patrick College in Carlow, Ireland, and was ordained Aug. 22, 1909, by Bishop William Cotter at St. Colman Cathedral in Queenstown, Ireland, for the Diocese of Concordia.

He served one year in Clinton, Mo., in the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph, then was named pastor of Immaculate Conception Church in Minneapolis, with missions in Vine Creek, Ada and Barnard (1910). He was assistant pastor at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Cathedral Parish in Concordia, with a mission in Jamestown (1911-23). He was named chancellor of the diocese in 1921, and in 1923 was named rector of the cathedral. He supervised the conversion of the old courthouse, into the Home of the Little Flower (1923) and the construction of the new bishop's home and chancery (1926-27).

He died of a heart attack at the rectory and is buried in St. Concordia Cemetery in Concordia.

(He is not to be confused with Wichita Bishop John Hennessy, who was apostolic administrator of the Diocese of Concordia from 1890 to 1897.)

NOV. 25, 1968

Msgr. John G. Wolf



Msgr. Wolf was born March 25, 1896, in St. Charles, Mo., to John and Christina (Scherer) Wolf. He attended St. Francis College in Quincy, Ill., and Kenrick Seminary in St. Louis. He was ordained on June 12, 1921, for the Archdiocese of St. Louis and was incardinated into the Diocese of Concordia in 1924.

He served in Columbia, Mo., before coming to the Concordia Diocese.

He was pastor of St. Agnes Parish in Grainfield, with missions in Grinnell, Oakley, Wallace and Sharon Springs (1922-26), chaplain of Marymount College in Salina and pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Niles (1926-29) and pastor of St. Paul Parish in Delphos (1929-38), Immaculate Conception Parish in Leoville (1938-59) and Immaculate Conception Parish in Grinnell (1959-66).

He was named a monsignor in 1949. He served on the diocesan school board and the marriage tribunal.

He retired in 1966 to Victoria, where he died. He is buried in the parish cemetery in Grinnell.

NOV. 27, 2006

Msgr. Raymond Menard



Msgr. Menard was born May 12, 1912, in Fulton, N.Y., to Herman and Josephine (Miner) Menard. He attended Syracuse University and St. Bonaventure College and Seminary, Allegheny, N.Y. He was ordained June 3, 1939, in Syracuse for the Diocese of Concordia.

He was assistant pastor at Seven Dolors Parish in Manhattan and chaplain at St. Mary Hospital and the Newman Center at Kansas State University (1939-42) and pastor of St. Joseph Parish in New Almelo (1942-44).

From 1944 to 1971, he was editor of *The Register*, the diocesan weekly newspaper founded in 1937, and as a hospital chaplain. He returned as editor of *The Register* in 1975 and served until his retirement in 2006 at the age of 93. He was named a monsignor in 1949. He was assistant director of the Catholic Youth Organization, moderator of the Salina Diocesan Council of Catholic Women and the Salina Council of Catholic Nurses and diocesan director of hospitals.

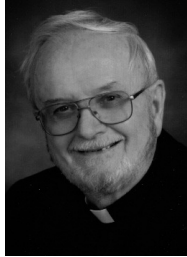
He was chaplain at St. Joseph Hospital in Concordia (1944-46) and St. John Hospital in Salina (1946-71). He was pastor of SS. Peter and Paul Parish in Clay Center (1945-46), Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in Salina (1946-50), St. Patrick Parish in Gypsum (1955), Immaculate Conception Parish in Solomon (1960-62), St. Patrick Parish in Ogden and St. Joseph Parish in McDowell Creek (1971) and St. Augustine Parish in Washington and SS. Peter and Paul Parish in Morrowville (1971-72), co-rector of Sacred Heart Cathedral (1972-73) and chaplain at Marymount College (1973- 75).

In 1975, when he returned as editor of *The Register*, he also served as pastor of St. Bernard Parish in Ellsworth (1976-80). He became full-time editor of the newspaper in 1980.

He is buried in Mount Calvary Cemetery in Salina.

NOV. 27, 2017

Rev. Donald (Don) McCarthy



Rev. Donald McCarthy was born June 8, 1933, in Galveston, Texas, to Edward and Ursula (Kidney) McCarthy. He attended Sacred Heart School in Galveston, Moye Military School in Castroville, Texas and Kirwin High School in Galveston, Texas. He attended St. John Seminary and Assumption Seminary in San Antonio, Texas. He was ordained May 23, 1959, at St. Mary Cathedral in Galveston by Bishop Louis Reicher.

He served in Waco, Texas, as an assistant pastor and as a Veterans Administration Hospital chaplain. In 1962, he earned a bachelor's degree in history and education at St. Benedict's College in Atchison. He earned a master's degree in secondary school education in 1965 from Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. He formally joined the Salina Diocese in 1968.

He was parochial vicar at Seven Dolours Parish in Manhattan, and guidance counselor at Luckey High School (1962-63), parochial vicar at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Salina (1963-65). He was a teacher and counselor at Sacred Heart High School in Salina (1963-70), parochial vicar at St. Mary, Queen of the Universe Parish in Salina (1965), pastor at St. Ignatius Loyola Parish in Kanopolis and St. Mary Parish in Holyrood (1965-70), pastor at Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in Salina (1970-71), principal of Sacred Heart High School in Salina (1970-72), pastor at St. Patrick Parish in Gypsum, and assistant chaplain at St. John's Military School in Salina (1971-72). He was the diocesan director of Scouting (1971-2005).

He was principal of Tipton Catholic High School and St. John Catholic High School in Beloit (1972-82), pastor at Sacred Heart Parish in Esbon and St. Mary Parish in Smith Center (1973-75), pastor at SS. Peter and Paul Parish in Cawker City and St. Mary Parish in Downs (1975-78). He was co-pastor at St. John the

Baptist Parish in Beloit (1978-82) and pastor at SS. Peter and Paul Parish in Cawker City (1980-82). He worked on his graduate studies at Kansas State University while he was pastor at St. Patrick Parish in Ogden and chaplain at Fort Riley (1982-86). He was a counselor at St. Francis Xavier High School in Junction City (1982-83), was principal of St. Francis Xavier High School (1983-84), superintendent at Manhattan Catholic Schools (1984-86) and superintendent of diocesan schools (1986-89). He was pastor at St. Joseph Parish in Oakley (1988-93), principal at Oakley and Colby Catholic grade schools (1988-89), principal at St. Joseph Grade School in Oakley (1989-92). He was pastor at St. Paul Parish in Angelus (1992-93), pastor at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Hill City and St. Joseph Parish in Damar (1993). He was principal at Tipton Catholic High School (1993-96), principal at St. Mary Grade School in Ellis (1996-97) and principal at Sacred Heart Grade School in Colby (1997-98). From 1965-2015, he was a sports official for Kansas Schools: volleyball; football; wrestling and basketball. From 1975-1982 and 2009-2017, he conducted summer lake ministry at Glen Elder State Park. From 2009-17, he was the chaplain at Mt. Joseph Senior Living Village in Concordia.

In June of 2009, he retired and moved to the rectory at Cawker City. He is buried in SS. Peter and Paul Cemetery in Cawker City.

NOV. 28, 1998

Bishop Frederick William Freking



Bishop Freking was born Aug. 11, 1913, to August and Rose (Oberbroeckling) Freking in Heron Lake, Minn. He was ordained July 31, 1938, at St. Ignatius Church in Rome for the Diocese of Winona, Minn. He was assistant pastor of St. John Church in Rochester, Minn., editor of the diocesan newspaper and chancellor of the diocese. He attended Catholic University of Washington and received a doctorate in canon law. He then served as spiritual director of the North American College in Rome until being appointed bishop of Salina on Oct. 10, 1957. He was ordained Nov. 30, 1957, at North American College. He was installed Jan. 7, 1958, at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Salina.

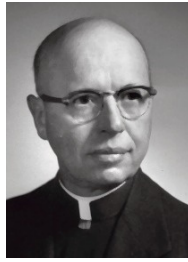
He attended all four sessions of the Second Vatican Council, the first three as bishop of Salina.

He was appointed bishop of La Crosse, Wis., on Dec. 30, 1964, and installed Feb. 24, 1965, in the Cathedral of St. Joseph the Workman in La Crosse. He resigned May 10, 1983.

Bishop Freking was interred in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel in St. Joseph the Workman Cathedral.

DEC. 1, 1984

Msgr. Francis Senecal



Msgr. Senecal was born March 30, 1908, at Zurich to John and Priscilla (Prairie) Senecal. He attended St. Benedict College in Atchison and St. Thomas Aquinas Theological Seminary in Denver. He was ordained May 27, 1934, by Bishop Francis Tief at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Cathedral in Concordia.

He served temporary appointments (1934-35) at St. John the Evangelist Parish in Herington, St. John the Baptist Parish in Clyde and St. Agnes Parish in Grainfield while secretary to the bishop. He was pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish in Grinnell and its mission (1935-44), St. Joseph Parish in Damar (1944-59), Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Goodland (1959-60), St. Joseph Parish in Oakley (1960-61), St. Anthony Parish in Schoenchen (1961-68), St. Boniface Parish in Tipton (1968-70), St. Mary Parish in Russell and St. Joseph Parish in Dorrance (1970-78) and Holy Cross Parish in Pfeifer (1978-83).

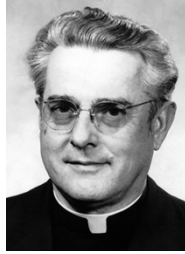
He retired to Victoria, where he died. He is buried in the parish cemetery in Victoria.

He was diocesan administrator from October 1979, after the death of Bishop Cyril Vogel, until the installation of Bishop Daniel Kucera in May 1980.

He was named a monsignor in January 1956. Two of his brothers became priests and three of his sisters were women religious. Father Eugene Senecal was a priest of the Diocese of Concordia and Salina, and Benedictine Father Lucien Senecal was a monk at St. Benedict Abbey in Atchison. Joining the Sisters of Mercy were Sister Mary Natalie and Sister Angelita, and joining the Benedictine Sisters in Atchison was Sister Mary Lucienne. Three nephews are Benedictines: Abbot Barnabas Senecal, Father Gerard Senecal and Father Nicholas Senecal of St. Benedict Abbey of Atchison.

DEC. 2, 2003

Msgr. Vincent Paul LeMoine



Msgr. LeMoine was born Feb. 17, 1925, in Concordia to John and Josephine (Lasnier) LeMoine. He attended Catholic schools in Kansas City, Mo., and Concordia, then St. Louis Preparatory Seminary and Kenrick Seminary in St. Louis. He was ordained by Bishop Frank Thill on May 13, 1951, at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Salina.

He was assistant pastor at St. Francis Xavier Parish in Junction City (1951-55). He was administrator of St. Columba Parish in Elmo (1956-60) and St. Michael Parish in Chapman (1960-65) and pastor at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Concordia (1965-68), St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Norton (1968-75), St. Mary of the Assumption Parish in Clifton, with a mission in Kimeo (1975-80), St. Frances Cabrini Parish in Hoxie, with a mission in Seguin (1980-86) and St. Theresa Parish of Mankato, with missions in Esbon and Jamestown (1986-91).

He retired in 1991 to Ellis. In 1993, he moved to Winterset, Iowa, where he was chaplain to a lay religious group. He returned in 1998 and lived in Osborne until his death. He is buried in St. Concordia Cemetery in Concordia.

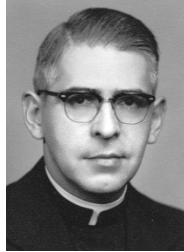
He was director of the Propagation of the Faith (1958-70), named a monsignor in 1963 and accompanied Bishop Frederick Freking on one of his trips to Rome for the second session of the Second Vatican Council.

He led the effort to restore St. Patrick Chapel near Chapman, considered the oldest church still in existence in the diocese, in 1961-63 and wrote a history, "The Chapman Irish," about the area's pioneers. The chapel was destroyed in a June 2008 tornado.

His hobby was metal and woodworking, and he made altars, candlesticks, sanctuary lamps, monstrances, baptistries and cemetery gates for parishes across the diocese. He also fabricated the belltower and shrine to Our Lady of the Farmland at St. Columba Church in Elmo.

DEC. 4, 1986

Msgr. Emmett J. Coler



Msgr. Coler was born Dec. 23, 1912, in Norton to Rush and Mary Ann (Goodale) Coler. He converted to Catholicism in 1933 while a student at the University of Kansas, and his parents and a sister later were converts. He attended Norton public schools, Bethany College, KU and St. Louis University. He attended Kenrick Seminary and was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Frank Thill on May 18, 1940, at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Cathedral in Concordia.

He was assistant at the cathedral (1940-43) and St. John the Baptist Parish in Beloit (1943-47).

He was administrator of St. Boniface Parish in Tipton and chaplain at Nazareth Motherhouse in Concordia (1947-51), pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Brookville and chaplain at Marymount College in Salina (1951-59) and pastor of St. Bernard Parish in Ellsworth (1959-70), St. Boniface Parish in Tipton (1970-78) and St. Mary Parish in Russell and St. Joseph Parish in Dor-rance (1978-83).

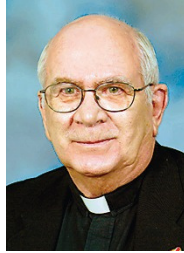
He was named a monsignor in 1975. He was diocesan director of the Salina Council of Catholic Women for 25 years and diocesan director of sacred music.

He retired in 1983 to Aurora, Colo. He is buried in Norton County Cemetery.

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DEC. 6, 2009

Rev. Richard Lutgen



Rev. Lutgen was born Sept. 6, 1936, in Tipton to Charles and Elizabeth (Koenigsman) Lutgen. He attended Catholic schools in Beloit, then Conception Seminary College in Conception, Mo., and Pontifical North American College in Rome. He was ordained Dec. 20, 1961, in St. Peter's Basilica in Vatican City and then earned a licentiate in sacred theology.

He was assistant pastor at St. Mary, Queen of the Universe Parish in Salina (1962-66). He was pastor of St. Paul Parish in Delphos, with a mission in Glasco (1966-68), St. Mary, Help of Christians Parish in Gorham (1968-69), St. Theresa Parish in Mankato, with a mission in Jamestown (1969-71), Immaculate Conception Parish in Minneapolis (1971-72), St. Joseph Parish in New Almelo (1972-74), Sacred Heart Parish in Selden, with a mission in Oberlin (1974-75), Immaculate Conception Parish in Leoville (1975), Sacred Heart Parish in Esbon, with a mission in Smith Center (1975-78), St. Edward Parish in Belleville, with missions in Munden and Cuba (1978-82), St. Patrick Parish in Gypsum and assistant at St. Mary in Salina (1982-83), St. John the Evangelist Parish in Herington, with missions in Hope and Elmo (1983-86), St. Frances Cabrini Parish in Hoxie, with a mission in Seguin (1986-89), Immaculate Conception Parish in Solomon, with a mission in Niles (1989-90), St. Andrew Parish in Abilene and priest supervisor of St. Michael Parish in Chapman (1990-92), and priest supervisor of Chapman (1992-2002). He retired in 2002 to Concordia, where he was chaplain at Mount St. Joseph Senior Village until his death.

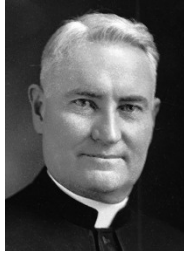
Rev. Lutgen received a heart transplant in 1988.

He was diocesan director of religious education, diocesan director of stewardship, chairman of the diocesan liturgical commission and president of the Priests Council. He helped introduce the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults to the diocese.

He is buried in St. John Cemetery in Beloit.

DEC. 15, 1954

Msgr. Arthur James Luckey



Msgr. Luckey was born Aug. 15, 1877, in Greenleaf to Michael and Mary Ann (Harr) Luckey. He attended local schools, then St. Benedict College in Atchison and Kenrick Seminary in St. Louis. He was ordained June 10, 1904, by Archbishop John Glennon in St. Louis. He was the first diocesan-born priest to be ordained for the Diocese of Concordia. He served in only two locations.

He was pastor of St. Bernard Parish in Ellsworth, with missions in Brookville and Holyrood (1904-13) and Seven Dolours Parish in Manhattan (1913-54). At Ellsworth, Father Luckey was visited by Father Francis Kelley of Michigan, who was on a lecture circuit. The priest, later a bishop, saw how destitute the parish was. That inspired him to start the Catholic Church Extension Society, which raised funds from wealthier parishes in the East to support mission parishes. A \$2,000 Extension grant helped Ellsworth build a new church and rectory in 1911.

During his 41-year tenure in Manhattan, a new church was dedicated in 1920, a grade school was started to accompany the high school begun in 1908, a new high school opened in 1951 and was named in his honor, and he worked to establish a Newman Club and eventual student center at Kansas State University. The parish grew from 25 families in 1913 to 550 in 1954.

In 1951, Msgr. Luckey was struck by a car while crossing the street in front of the church. He recovered enough to return to work but retired in 1954 to St. Joseph Hospital in Concordia, where he died later that year. He is buried in the Catholic section in Sunset Cemetery in Manhattan.

Msgr. Luckey served as an army chaplain at Camp Funston, now Fort Riley, in 1918. He accompanied Bishop Francis Tief to Rome in 1925 for the canonization of St. Therese of Lisieux. He was president of the National Catholic Rural Life Conference (1926-28). He was named a monsignor in 1935.

DEC. 15, 1986

Rev. John Poell



Rev. Poell was born Dec. 2, 1918, in Hanover to John and Lulu (Rohde) Poell. He attended local schools, then studied at St. Joseph Military Academy in Hays and St. Louis Preparatory Seminary and Kenrick Seminary, both in St. Louis. He was ordained by Bishop Frank Thill on Feb. 13, 1944, at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Cathedral in Concordia.

He was assistant pastor at Concordia (1944-47) and was given the task of converting the former Concordia Business School into a parochial high school, where he then was superintendent, coach and teacher.

He was administrator of St. Mary Parish in Jamestown (1947-52) and chaplain at St. Thomas Hospital in Colby (1952-60). He was pastor of St. Ann Parish in Zurich (1960-66), assistant at St. Francis Xavier in Junction City (1966-67) and pastor of Holy Cross Parish in Pfeifer (1967-78), St. Anthony Parish in Schoenchen (1978-85) and Our Lady, Help of Christians Parish in Antonino (1984-85).

He retired in 1985 and died at St. Anthony Hospital in Hays. He is buried in St. John Cemetery in Hanover.

He published a history of the Hanover parish, "Gospel Hill," and of the Pfeifer parish, "The Cross in the Valley." He also completed numerous murals in the diocese, as well as sketches of each church in the diocese, as of 1955, on a 10-foot by 3.5-foot canvas.

DEC. 19, 1912

Rev. Pierre Fortier



Rev. Fortier was born Dec. 7, 1852, in Quebec, Canada, to Joseph and Genevieve (Gosselin) Fortier. He studied at the Seminary of Nicolet and was ordained Aug. 11, 1878.

He came to Aurora, Kan., in 1883 to visit his uncle, Alexis Gosselin. Father Joseph Perrier, who was pastor in Concordia, asked him if he would be pastor of his mission of St. Peter Parish in Aurora, and he agreed. He was appointed in January 1884 by Leavenworth Bishop Louis Fink.

Aurora is the only parish in the diocese that Rev. Fortier served. He died there and is buried in the parish cemetery.

DEC. 20, 2011

Dcn. John Rockne Bloomfield



Dcn. Bloomfield was born on March 31, 1931, in Wyandotte, Michigan, to Gregory Bloomfield and Hellen (Walsh) Bloomfield. He graduated from Saint Patrick High School in Wyandotte and entered the military. He married Darlene Schwalm on May 3, 1952 at Fort Riley. After twenty years in the United States Army, he retired as a Master Sergeant. He had served in Korea and Vietnam.

In 1991 John was ordained as a Deacon in the Catholic Church in the Diocese of Gallup, New Mexico by Bishop Donald Pelotte, SSS.

He began serving as Pastoral Minister to the Sick at Seven Dolors Parish in Manhattan in 1997. He was incardinated in the Diocese of Salina on Apr. 20, 2002 and was assigned to St. Patrick's in Ogden on Feb. 16, 2007.

DEC. 22, 1956

Msgr. Henry Spoorenberg



Msgr. Spoorenberg was born Sept. 28, 1883, in Arnhem, Netherlands, to Hendrikus and Jacoba (Dreesen) Spoorenberg. He studied at the American College at Louvain, Belgium, and was ordained July 12, 1908, by Auxiliary Bishop Ludovicus Legraive for the Diocese of Concordia.

He was pastor of Assumption of Mary Parish in Herndon (1908-09), St. Paul Parish in Angelus (1909- 13) St. Anthony Parish in Miltonvale and St. Peter Parish in Meredith (1913-16), St. John the Baptist Parish in Clyde and its missions (1916-51) and St. John the Evangelist Parish in Herington and its missions (1951-56).

He was named a monsignor in January 1956.

He is buried in Mount Calvary Cemetery in Salina.

DEC. 24, 1965

Rev. John Peter Koerperich



Rev. Koerperich was born July 11, 1900, in Selden to Paul and Mary (Stegman or Steggeman) Koerperich. He attended local schools, St. Joseph College in Hays, St. Benedict College in Atchison and St. Thomas Seminary in Denver. He was ordained April 30, 1933, by Bishop Francis Tief at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Cathedral in Concordia.

He was chaplain at St. John Hospital in Salina (1933).

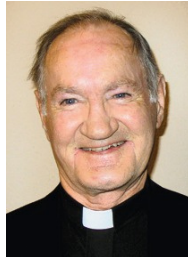
He was pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish in Minneapolis, with missions in Vine Creek, Ada and Barnard (1933-40), and St. Martin of Tours Parish in Seguin (1940-46).

He was chaplain at the Home of the Little Flower in Concordia (1946-48) and St. Joseph Hospital in Concordia (1948-65).

He is buried in the parish cemetery in Leoville. Of 11 children in the family, four entered religious life. His brother, Msgr. August Koerperich, served as a priest in the diocese from 1921 to 1957, and two sisters became nuns: Ann (Sister Mary Austin, a Sister of St. Agnes, and Margaret (Sister Mary Paula, a Sister of St. Joseph of Concordia).

DEC. 24, 2009

Rev. John Walsh



Rev. Walsh was born Dec. 19, 1929, in County Sligo, Ireland, to David and Kate (Jennings) Walsh. He attended All Hallows College in Dublin, where he was ordained June 12, 1955, for the Diocese of Wichita.

When he and another newly ordained priest from Ireland arrived in Wichita, they learned they were not needed there and that they would be loaned to the Salina and Dodge City dioceses. Wichita Bishop John Carroll tossed a coin to determine their destinations. The coin toss reportedly matched with the priests' private choices, with Rev. Walsh coming to Salina.

In 1958 he was incardinated by the Diocese of Salina after serving as an assistant at St. Francis Xavier Parish in Junction City (1955-58) and briefly as chaplain at St. John's Hospital in Salina. He then was assistant at St. Martin of Tours Parish in Seguin and St. Francis Cabrini Parish in Hoxie (1958-59).

He was administrator of Seguin and Hoxie (1959-64) and St. Joseph Parish in Damar (1968-76). He was pastor of Holy Ghost Parish in Sharon Springs and St. Peter Parish in Wallace (1976-80), St. Thomas Parish in Stockton and St. Francis Parish in Claudell (1980-87), St. John the Baptist Parish in Clyde, St. Mary of the Assumption Parish in Clifton and St. Joseph Parish in St. Joseph (1987-93), Sacred Heart Parish in Park and St. Agnes Parish in Grainfield (1993-96), St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Norton and St. Joseph Parish in New Almelo (1996-2002) and St. Francis Xavier Parish in Junction City and St. Michael Parish in Chapman (2002-03).

He retired in 2003 to Hoxie, where he assisted at the parish until shortly before his death. He was the last survivor of the Irish born priests to serve in the diocese. He is buried in St. Frances Cemetery in Hoxie.

DEC. 26, 1876

Rev. Pierre James Bedard



Rev. Bedard was born Nov. 17, 1816, and ordained Jan. 29, 1844. He was a missionary priest and served the French-Canadian settlement of Jefferson, S.D., about 1872.

He was pastor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Concordia, with missions in Alum Creek, St. Joseph, Clyde, Mulberry Creek, Louisville, Clay Center and Molcreek (1872-73).

He then served St. Patrick Parish in O'Neill, Neb. until about 1875.

He had homesteaded in Antelope County, Neb., and spent time there in between his parish appointments. He also lived at times in Sioux City, Iowa, and Yankton, S.D.

He is buried in St-Tite-des-Caps, Quebec, Canada.

DEC. 27, 1933

Rev. Louis Francis Guillaume

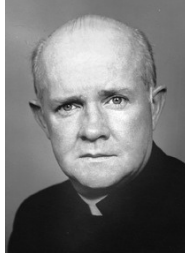
Rev. Guillaume was born Oct. 21, 1852, in France. He was ordained Nov. 30, 1875. He wished to be a missionary priest and came to the United States with a brother.

He was pastor of St. Ann Parish in Zurich (1887-89) and St. Joseph Parish in Damar (1905-13), during which time the construction of the present church was begun.

He apparently became ill and traveled to Colorado and California, eventually settling in Laredo, Texas, then Woodsboro, Texas, where he died. He is buried in Refugio, Texas.

DEC. 28, 1974

Rev. Joseph Emerson Hughes



Rev. Hughes was born Oct. 4, 1904, in Naugatuck, Conn., to Thomas and Mary (Burke) Hughes. He attended local schools, then St. Mary Academy and St. Mary College in St. Mary's, Kan., and St. Bonaventure Seminary in Allegheny, N.Y. He was ordained May 19, 1934, by Concordia Bishop Francis Tief at St. Bonaventure.

He was assistant pastor at St. John the Baptist Parish in Beloit (1934-39).

He was pastor of Holy Ghost Parish in Sharon Springs, with its mission in Wallace (1939-47), St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Norton, with a mission in Phillipsburg (1947-62), St. John the Baptist Parish in Hanover (1962-67) and St. Thomas Parish in Stockton (1967-73).

He retired in 1973. He died in Stockton and is buried in Naugatuck.

DEC. 29, 1969

Rev. Richard Kerr



Rev. Kerr was born Dec. 7, 1914, in Damar to William and Elizabeth (Newell) Kerr. He attended local schools, then studied at St. Benedict College in Atchison, St. Joseph College in Hays, St. Louis Preparatory Seminary and St. Thomas Seminary in Denver. He was ordained Jan. 7, 1941, by Bishop Frank Thill at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Cathedral in Concordia.

He worked at the Chancery until studying in 1942 and 1943 at Catholic University of America. On his return, he was assistant pastor at St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Norton, with missions at Phillipsburg and the state sanitarium (1943-44) and St. Francis Xavier Parish in Junction City (1942-51).

He was pastor of St. Columba Parish and its mission in Gypsum (1951-55), St. John Parish in Logan and its mission in Densmore (1955-63), St. Wenceslaus Parish in Wilson (1963-65), again at Norton (1965-68), St. Phillip Parish in Hope (1968-69) and St. Peter Parish in Aurora (1969).

He died in Aurora and is buried in the parish cemetery in Damar.

DEC. 31, 1917

Msgr. Joseph Perrier



Msgr. Perrier was born March 23, 1839, in Savoy, France. He graduated from college at the age of 18 and by age 23 was a professor of languages. He was ordained May 30, 1863, by Cardinal Alexis Billet in the cathedral in Chambéry, France.

He came to Kansas in June 1866 as a missionary and served in Lawrence, Emporia, Humboldt and Leavenworth County before being sent to Concordia in 1880, seven years before the Diocese of Concordia was founded. He was the first resident pastor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish and opened the first parochial school in 1883. The next year he invited Mother Stanislaus Leary and the Sisters of St. Joseph to teach. They later formed their own congregation, based in Concordia. He erected a new church in Concordia, now the cathedral, as well as churches in 13 other parishes in the area, including St. Joseph Church in St. Joseph. In all, he attended 75 missions in Kansas.

He was the first vicar general of the new Concordia Diocese (1888-91).

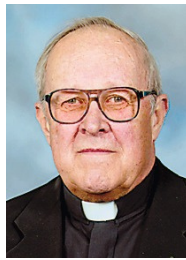
He was pastor at Concordia (1880-1903), St. John the Baptist Parish in Clyde (1903-08) and St. Joseph Parish in St. Joseph (1908-13).

He retired in 1913 and moved to La Grange, Ill., to serve as chaplain to the Sisters of St. Joseph of La Grange, which was founded by Mother Stanislaus after she retired as superior of the Concordia congregation.

He died Dec. 31, 1917, while living in Los Angeles and is buried in Olpe, near Emporia.

DEC. 31, 2011

Rev. Louis Mattas



Rev. Mattas was born Oct. 12, 1928, in Wilson to Frank and Mary (Vopat) Mattas. He attended business school, worked and served two years in the U.S. Army. He studied at St. Francis Seminary in Victoria, St. Mary College in Kentucky and Kenrick Seminary in St. Louis. He was ordained April 3, 1960, at St. Wenceslaus Church in Wilson.

He was assistant pastor at St. Michael Parish in Chapman (1960). He was pastor of St. Columba Parish in Elmo and St. Patrick in Gypsum (1960-64), St. Joseph Parish in St. Joseph and St. Isidore Parish in Cuba (1964-67) and St. John the Evangelist Parish in Logan and St. Mary Parish in Densmore (1967-69). He was assistant pastor at St. Mary Parish in Russell (1969-70). He was pastor of St. Ignatius Loyola Parish in Kanopolis, St. Mary Parish in Holyrood and St. Joseph Parish in Brookville (1970-76). He was co-pastor with Father James Hoover of St. Mary, Queen of the Universe Parish in Salina while pastor of St. Patrick in Gypsum (1976-82). He was pastor of St. John the Baptist Parish in Beloit (1982-84), St. Francis Xavier Parish in Junction City (1984-93), St. Augustine Parish in Washington and SS. Peter and Paul Parish in Morrowville (1993-94) and St. Andrew Parish in Abilene (1994-99).

He was diocesan rural life director (1963-77), chaplain at St. Joseph Hospital in Concordia (1966), business manager of The Register (1971-83) and served in various capacities in the diocesan development office, including director (1985-2005). He was state chaplain of the American Legion and state and national chaplain of the 40 and 8, a military veterans' organization, and of the Catholic Workman fraternal insurance organization.

He retired from parish work in 1999 but continued working in the diocesan development office until 2005, when he moved to the priests' retirement center in the Diocese of Wichita. He is buried St. Wenceslaus Cemetery in Wilson.