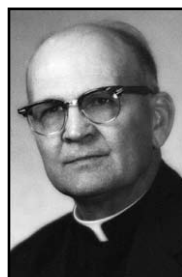


March 8, 1971

Father Forrest Barker



Father Barker was born on Nov. 8, 1909 in Maud, Okla. His family moved to Dodge City in 1918 and converted to the the faith during the pastorate of Father Joseph Klug. Father Barker attended Sacred Heart School. He continued his education at Dodge City High School; St. Joseph Academy at Hays; St. Thomas Seminary, Denver; and Kenrick Seminary, St. Louis. He was ordained by Bishop Schwertner at St. Mary's Cathedral, Wichita on June 6, 1936.

Father Barker celebrated his first Mass in Sacred Heart Church, Dodge City, on June 16.

He spent his entire priesthood serving in parishes in the Wichita diocese. His pastoral assignments included: St. Patrick, Galena, (1936-43) with the missions St. Joseph, Baxter Springs and St. Rose, Columbus; Sacred Heart, Cunningham, (1943-44) with missions St. John, Zenda, and Assumption, Turon; St. Martin, Caldwell (1944-55) and the mission Sacred Heart, Perth; St. Joseph, McPherson, (1955-62) and St. Peter, Schulte (1962-71).

During his first pastorate, St. Patrick Church at Galena was completely destroyed by fire. The church was rebuilt and dedicated Nov. 8, 1938. He built a school at St. Martin's, Caldwell, in 1942.

Father Barker suffered a heart attack and died enroute to the hospital soon after receiving last rites. He was 61. The Most Rev. David Maloney, bishop of Wichita, was joined by Bishop Forst, in celebrating the funeral Mass at St. Peter Church, Schulte. Burial was in Resurrection Cemetery, Wichita.