

March 23, 1969

Father John Bast



Father Bast was born in Landkern, Rheinland-Pfalz, Germany on May 1, 1881. He moved to Cleveland, Ohio, with his family when he was seven years old. He was ordained by Bishop Hennessy Dec. 4, 1907 in the chapel at St. Meinrad Seminary, St. Meinrad, Ind.

Father Bast was assigned to St. Peter, Willowdale for four years. During that time he served the stations of Coldwater in Comanche County; and Ashland and Englewood in Clark County. To attend to the Catholics in these communities, he boarded the Englewood branch of the Santa Fe Railroad at Spivey. Trains on this branch ran every day except Sunday. Given the train schedule, it is likely that Father Bast spent at least 24 hours in each of the communities on a week day and was back in Willowdale to celebrate Mass on Sunday. He later received the additional mission of St. John, Zenda. This assignment added one more stop to his trip by rail.

In 1912 he was named pastor at Sts. Peter and Paul, North Ellinwood. He would serve in this pastorate until 1935. He built a new school during this time that was dedicated on Oct. 12, 1927.

He was reassigned to St. Peter, Willowdale, in 1935. He was named vicar forane of the Kingman Deanery in 1961. Father Bast retired on March 11, 1964 and resided in Kingman.

He died March 23, 1969 at the age of 86 with 56 years of service in only two parish assignments. Bishop David Maloney celebrated the funeral at St. Peter's Church in Willowdale. Burial was in the parish cemetery.