

**April 22, 1993**

**Father Justin Betzen**



Father Betzen was born in Colwich Feb. 15, 1924. He was ordained April 22, 1949 by Bishop Carroll at St. Anthony Church in Wichita.

His only assignment in the Dodge City diocese was as an assistant at Sacred Heart, Dodge City, (May 15, 1949 to June 8, 1951). He learned of the division of the Wichita diocese on June 6 when the priests were on retreat. Since he knew his next assignment was at Holy Savior, Wichita, it is likely that he had moved out of the rectory in Dodge City as he prepared to go on retreat.

He was assistant at Holy Savior from 1951 to 1955 before receiving his first pastorate. He served as pastor at St. Vincent De Paul, Andover, (1955-57); St. Peter Claver, Wichita, (1957-59), and St. Mary, Chase, (1959-60); before becoming a military chaplain. During his 11-year tour with the Air Force, he served in Turkey, Japan, Korea and in the United States. Upon his return to the Wichita diocese in 1971 he served another 19 years in active ministry as pastor at Sacred Heart, Caney, with the missions of St. Robert Bellarmine, Sedan; and St. Joseph, Cedarvale, and later St. Martin, Piqua.

He retired to the Priest Retirement Home in Wichita and died there on April 22, 1993, the 44th anniversary of his ordination.

Bishop Gerber celebrated the Mass of Christian Burial at St. Elizabeth Chapel at the Catholic Care Center on April 23, 1993. Burial was in St. Mark's Cemetery at St. Mark.