

July 31, 1970

Father Leonard Burghart



Father Burghart was born Feb. 26, 1923 in Spearville. After attending St. John grade school, he entered the Society of the Precious Blood. He studied philosophy and theology at St. Charles Seminary, Carthegena, Ohio. He was ordained March 25, 1949, by the Most Rev. George Rehring, auxiliary bishop of Cincinnati.

His first appointment was as assistant at St. Mary, Centerville, Iowa (1949-50). Then, after studying Spanish, the Precious Blood congregation sent him to South America where he served in Chile at St. Dominic's Parish, Santiago, (1950-52) and Sagrada Familia Parish, Rio Negro (1952-56).

He served in Oklahoma at Sacred Heart, Miami, and then at Holy Ghost, Vinita, before joining the Diocese of Dodge City.

His first assignment in the diocese was as assistant at St. Joseph, Ellinwood (1957-58). In 1958 he was appointed pastor at St. John, Kiowa, with the mission Holy Rosary, Medicine Lodge. He continued to served both parishes until 1960 when the latter received a resident pastor.

Father Burghart served as pastor of Sts. Peter and Paul, North Kinsley, with the mission St. Anthony, Burdett, (1962-65); Our Lady of Guadalupe, Dodge City (1965-68); and St. Boniface, Sharon (1968-70).

He died July 31, 1970, in the Kiowa Hospital after suffering a heart attack. He was 47. Archbishop Ignatius Strecker of Kansas City and Bishop Forst were the principal concelebrants at the funeral at St. John the Baptist Church in Spearville. Msgr. Joseph Stremel was the homilist. Burial was in St. Boniface Cemetery, Sharon.