

August 8, 1951

Father Francis Butler



Father Butler was born Oct. 23, 1893 in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, Canada. He was ordained Dec. 23, 1917 at the Grand Seminary in Quebec, Canada, for the Wichita Diocese.

His first assignment was at Caney where he served as pastor of Sacred Heart Parish (1918-27).

He had two pastorates in parishes in the Dodge City diocese: St. Mary's, McCracken (1927-40), and Sacred Heart, Dodge City (1940-45). During his pastorate at McCracken he enlisted the services of the Dominican Sisters who began a two-week religious vacation school for the children of the parish. This continued in the parish until the 1960s. He was in Dodge City during World War II and had the additional responsibility for celebrating Mass at the Dodge City Air Base chapel and providing for the sacramental ministry to the pilots who were training there.

He resigned as pastor in Dodge City in October of 1945 due to a serious heart condition. He spent three years resting and assisting in parishes.

Thinking that he was able to take on full-time work again, Father Butler accepted the pastorate of Holy Redeemer, Tampa, in 1948. He spent the last months of his life at St. Francis Hospital in Wichita where he died on Aug. 8, 1951.

Msgr. John Butler, his brother and rector of the cathedral, celebrated his Mass of Requiem at St. Mary's Cathedral in Wichita. After the services, the body was taken to Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, Canada, for a Solemn Requiem Mass in St. Dunstan's Basilica. Burial was in the Cathedral church cemetery at Charlottetown.