

March 1, 1948

Father Michael Casey



Father Casey was born on June 2, 1878 in Grafton, Mass. He was ordained by Bishop Hennessy for the Wichita diocese on Oct. 2, 1904 at St. Aloysius Pro-Cathedral. He served as an assistant at the pro-cathedral for several months.

His only assignment in the Dodge City diocese was pastor pro-tem at Immaculate Conception Parish, Claffin. Father Casey served there during the month of September, 1905, before receiving his first and only pastorate.

Father Casey was pastor of St. Andrew's Parish, Independence from 1905 to 1948. "Besides the close association with his own parish, Father Casey took an active interest in the growth and progress of Independence and attended civic functions regularly" (AR March 12, 1948)

His pastorate had one planned and one unplanned building project. In 1911, he built the two-story brick school. The church was struck by lightning in 1916 and fire destroyed everything except the massive stone walls. The rebuilt church was dedicated on March 25, 1917.

Father Casey died at Mercy Hospital in Independence on March 1, 1948 three months before his 70th birthday. He had suffered from a heart ailment for several years. At the time of his death he was the Director of the Apostleship of Prayer and a member of the Diocesan School Board.

Father George Reinschmidt, a close friend of Father Casey, celebrated the Solemn Mass of Requiem at St. Andrew Church in Independence. Burial was in the parish cemetery. Bishop Carroll could not be present because he was in St. Louis for the funeral Mass of his sister, Mrs. Ann Dorsey, that same day.