

May 30, 1956

Msgr. John Cody



Msgr. Cody was born Aug. 15, 1897, in Jordanstown, Whitehall, Kilkenny, Ireland. He was ordained June 10, 1923, at Immaculate Conception Cathedral in Denver by Bishop J. Henry Tihen. He served as an assistant at St. Mary's Cathedral in Wichita for a year.

His pastorates include: St. Mary, Moline, (1926-35); St. John, Iola, (1935-45); St. John, Clonmel, (1946-47), and St. Rose of Lima, Great Bend, (1947-56).

During his pastorate at Moline, he built a new school, dedicated by Bishop Schwertner on Oct. 10, 1946. At Clonmel, he built a new church, dedicated by Bishop Carroll, Sept. 24, 1947. At Great Bend, he started a second parish and built a school and "chapel of relief." Bishop Franz dedicated St. Patrick Chapel on May 9, 1954.

Msgr. Cody served one year (1945-46) as a chaplain in the U.S. Army. He saw frontline action on Guinea, Luzon, and other Philippine Islands. He received the Asiatic-Pacific Service Medal, World War II Victory Medal, American Theater Service Medal, Philippine Liberation Medal, and three battle stars. He was raised to the rank of captain in November, 1945, and at the time of his death was a reserve officer with the rank of major.

In 1949 Pope Pius XII elevated him to the rank of papal chamberlain; he was named domestic prelate in 1952.

Msgr. Cody died May 30, 1956, shortly after giving an address following a televised Memorial Day service in Great Bend. Bishop Franz was the celebrant of the Pontifical Mass of Requiem at St. Rose Church. Bishop Carroll preached the sermon. Burial was in the Catholic section of the Great Bend Cemetery.