

April 7, 1997

Father Columkille Francis Colbert



Father Colbert was born April 10, 1914 in Chicago. After attending Kenrick Seminary, St. Louis, Mo., he was ordained for the Wichita diocese May 22, 1941, by Archbishop (later Cardinal) Samuel Stritch at St. Viator's Church in Chicago.

After his ordination, Father Colbert was assigned to Blessed Sacrament, Wichita, as an assistant.

He received his first pastorate two years later when he was assigned to St. John the Apostle, Kiowa, (1943-47). He also attended the missions of Sacred Heart, Perth, in Sumner County, and Our Lady of Sorrows, Bluff City, in Harper County. His only other assignment in the Dodge City diocese was at St. Nicholas, Kinsley, (1948-50). During this pastorate, the parish completed an addition to the church which was dedicated by Bishop Carroll on April 21, 1949.

His pastorates in the Wichita diocese included: St. James, Augusta; Mary, Queen of Peace, Fort Scott (two assignments); St. Martin's, Piqua; St. Patrick, Florence; St. John, Iola; St. Martin of Tours, Caldwell; Sacred Heart, Fredonia, and Sacred Heart, Anthony.

Father Colbert retired in 1976 and lived the remaining years of his life at the Priest Retirement Center and the Catholic Care Center in Wichita.

He died on April 7, 1997, at the age of 82. Bishop Gerber celebrated the funeral Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral in Wichita. Burial was in St. Mary's Cemetery in Evergreen Park, Ill.