

May 13, 1938

Father John Disselkamp



Father Disselkamp was born Aug. 4, 1854 in Herzfeld, Westphalia, Germany. He was ordained for the Leavenworth diocese May 19, 1883. He served as assistant at the Church of the Assumption, Topeka, before receiving his first pastorate.

In 1884, he was appointed pastor of the Church of the Purification at Newman with the missions of St. Aloysius, Meriden, and St. Cecilia, Perryville.

He was appointed pastor of St. Rose of Lima, Great Bend, in 1885, and visited St. Anthony, Olmitz; Bartondale, and several stations in Pratt County without churches. He became a priest in the Wichita diocese upon its establishment in 1887.

Father Disselkamp was named pastor at St. Anthony near Olmitz in 1888 and remained there until 1893. During this pastorate, he served 24 different mission communities and built St. Ann's Church in the town of Olmitz.

His other pastorates included: Immaculate Heart of Mary, Windthorst, (1893-98), with missions at St. Nicholas, Kinsley, Sts. Peter and Paul, North Kinsley, St. Joseph, Ford County, and St. Bernard, Belpre; Sts. Peter and Paul, North Ellinwood, (1898-99); St. Andrew's, Independence, (1899-1904); St. John the Baptist, Spearville, (1904-12); and St. Anthony, Strong City, (1912-31).

After spending a year in Emporia, he retired to Spearville and lived there until his death on May 13, 1938 at the age of 83. Father Vincent Smith celebrated the funeral Mass at St. John's Church in Spearville. Burial was in the parish cemetery. Bishop Schwertner gave the absolution of the dead.