

**July 19, 1946**

## **Father Francis Dombrowsky**



Father Dombrowsky was born June 1, 1896 in Newton. He attended elementary school at Sunnyside School and St. Mary's Grade School, both in Newton. His minor seminary studies were completed at St. Benedict's College, Atchison, and his major seminary studies were completed at St. Meinrad's Seminary, St. Meinrad, Ind. He was ordained by Bishop Schwertner June 29, 1921 at St. Mary's Cathedral. He was the first native son ordained to the priesthood from Newton and the first priest ordained by Bishop Schwertner.

He served in two brief assignments as assistant pastor at St. Joseph, Andale, and St. Mary's, Newton.

In 1923, he was appointed pastor at St. Andrew, Wright, with St. Lawrence, Jetmore, as a mission. He was the first resident pastor at Wright and the first priest to serve the Jetmore Catholics who had formed a parish after acquiring a Protestant church. During Father Dombrowsky's pastorate, the Wright parish constructed a rectory (1927) and a two-story brick school (1929).

Father Dombrowsky remained at Wright for 14 years until he was appointed pastor at Sacred Heart, Larned, (1937-40). On July 1, 1940, he was transferred to St. John the Baptist, Spearville. He celebrated his silver jubilee in the parish on June 29, 1946. In July, while traveling on his jubilee trip, he was involved in an automobile accident on a mountain road near Albany, Ore. He died four days after the accident, on July 19, 1946, at the age of 50.

Father John Wechensky, a nephew, celebrated the funeral Mass for his uncle at St. John the Baptist Church in Spearville. Burial was in the parish cemetery.