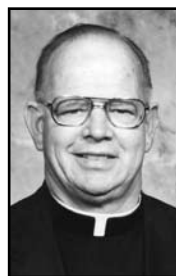


**January 1, 1997**

**Father Patrick Downey**

Father Downey was born Nov. 21, 1928, on a farm near Wright, the son of Michael and Nellie O'Keefe Downey.



When he learned that older men were being accepted into the priesthood, he consulted Bishop Forst, who agreed to sponsor him in his studies. He began his seminary studies at the age of 46 at Conception Seminary College, Conception, Mo. In 1977, under the sponsorship of Bishop Gerber, he transferred to St. Mark Seminary, South Union, Ky., for theology.

He was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Gerber on Sept. 20, 1980 at the age of 52.

He served in the following assignments: associate pastor at St. Dominic, Garden City, from 1980 to 1983; pastor at St. Joseph, Greensburg; St. George, Bucklin, and the Catholic Community of Coldwater (1983-85); associate pastor at St. Patrick, Great Bend (1985-87); pastor at St. Joseph, Offerle, St. Mary, Hodgeman County, and Sts. Peter and Paul, North Kinsley, (1987-90); pastor at St. Raphael, Syracuse and St. Joseph, Tribune, (1990-93), parochial vicar at Our Lady of Guadalupe, Dodge City, and St. George, Bucklin (1993-94); parochial vicar at Sacred Heart, Ness City, and St. Aloysius, Ransom, (1994); parochial vicar at Our Lady of Guadalupe, Dodge City, and St. George, Bucklin, (1994-95), and part-time parochial administrator at St. Patrick, Great Bend, and part time administrator at St. Catherine, Dubuque, (1995-1997).

Father Downey died of a bone marrow disease Jan. 1, 1997. He was 68. Bishop Schlarman presided at the funeral in Sacred Heart Cathedral on Jan. 5. Burial was in the family plot at Maple Grove Cemetery, Dodge City.