

January 11, 2004

Father Jacob J. Dreher



Father Dreher was born March 17, 1917, in Liebenthal. He was ordained by Bishop Winkelmann in the chapel at the Dominican Convent in Great Bend, Sept. 18, 1943. His first assignment was assistant pastor at St. Mary's Cathedral, Wichita (1943-1944).

He served as pastor for the following parishes: Mother of God, Oswego, (1944-46); St. Mary, Moline, (1946-48); St. Joseph, Offerle, with St. Mary, Hodgeman County, as a mission (1948-1955).

In 1955 he became pastor of St. Anthony, Fowler, where he served for ten years. During his tenure there, a new rectory was constructed and the church was extensively renovated. Much of the furnishings of the latter were the products of Father Dreher's personal skills as a carpenter and a metal craftsman.

Father Dreher also served as pastor or administrator of the following parishes: St. Michael, La Crosse, (1965-68); St. Joseph, Scott City, (1968-76); Holy Family, Odin, (1976-79); St. Joseph, Beaver, and St. Catherine, Dubuque, (1979-91). After his retirement on July 2, 1991, he resided in Great Bend until his death on Jan. 11, 2004 at the age of 86. He celebrated the 60th anniversary of his ordination Sept. 18, 2003.

Bishop Gilmore presided at the funeral at St. Patrick Church in Great Bend, Jan. 14, 2004. Burial was in St. Joseph Cemetery, Liebenthal.

Father Dreher enjoyed carving and making clocks. He created more than 125 clocks, each with symbolic and ornate carvings. A sibling, Sister Mary Phillip, was a member of the Adorers of the Blood of Christ.