

August 31, 1932

Father Werner Emmerich



Father Emmerich was born on June 13, 1849 in Doessel, Westphalia, Germany. He was ordained on May 19, 1881 by Bishop Fink in Leavenworth. He served as an assistant at St. Mary's, Newton, until he was appointed first resident pastor at St. Mary's, Odin, in 1881.

From Odin, he served the following missions: St. Leopold Settlement in Barton County; St. Dominic's Colony, Phelan's Settlement, and Raymond all in Rice County. Later missions included St. Anthony, Olmitz, and Dubuque in Barton County, and Holy Name at Cain City in Ellsworth County.

During this pastorate he built a church at Olmitz (1883), and started the limestone church at Odin.

In 1896, he was transferred to St. Joseph, Ellinwood. He initiated construction of a limestone church there in 1900 and supervised the project to completion. During this pastorate, he was charged by Bishop Hennessy to supervise the building of St. Mary Church at Chase (1906) and St. Joseph Church at Beaver (1921).

After serving in Ellinwood for nearly 28 years, Father Emmerich retired in 1923. He continued to reside in the community until his death on Aug. 31, 1932, at the age of 83. He had suffered from asthma for 50 years.

Bishop Schwertner celebrated the funeral Mass at Holy Family Church, Odin, with Bishop J. Henry Tihen in attendance. Burial was in Narazeth Cemetery at Odin.

Father Emmerich, whose sister, Sister Borromeo, was a member of the Sisters of St. Dominic in Brooklyn, N.Y., was greatly responsible for the Dominican Sisters coming to Kansas and establishing a foundation at Great Bend.