

December 3, 1991

Father Albert Esswein



Father Esswein was born June 26, 1911, in St. Louis, where he later attended Kenrick Seminary. "At the time of Father Essein's ordination, the Archdiocese of St. Louis had an excess of priests and (he) asked to serve in the Diocese of Wichita." (CA Dec. 12, 1991)

Bishop Winkelmann ordained him for the Wichita diocese on June 11, 1938, in the St. Louis Cathedral.

He worked briefly at St. Francis Hospital in Wichita before being appointed assistant at St. Joseph, Ellinwood (1938-40).

In his first pastorate, he served Sacred Heart, Fredonia, with St. Francis, Fall River, as a mission (1940-42). His other pastorates included: Mary, Help of Christians, Loretto (1942-47); St. Leo, St. Leo (1947-58); St. John the Evangelist, Clonmel (1958-62); St. Joseph, McPherson (1962-69), and St. Paul, Lyons (1969-83). During the pastorate at Lyons he also served Holy Trinity, Little River (1971-74). He built the convent at St. Leo in 1955.

In 1983, after serving in the Wichita diocese for 45 years, Father Esswein retired to his hometown of St. Louis.

He died Dec. 3, 1991, at the age of 80. Bishop Gerber celebrated his funeral Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in St. Louis. Burial was in Resurrection Cemetery there.