

June 2, 2007

Bishop Marion F. Forst



Bishop Forst was born Sept. 3, 1910, in St. Louis, the son of Frank and Bertha (Gulath) Forst. He was ordained to the priesthood June 10, 1934, by John Cardinal Glennon, archbishop of St. Louis.

He was named a Papal Chamberlain by Pope Pius XII on Dec. 31, 1954. Two years later, when the Diocese of Springfield - Cape Girardeau was erected, Bishop Charles Helmsing chose him as Vicar General of the diocese. He continued as rector of St. Mary's, which became a Co-Cathedral. He was elevated to the rank of Right Reverend Monsignor by Pope Pius XII on Nov. 22, 1957, and made Protonotary Apostolic by Pope John XXIII on July 24, 1959. He was appointed Bishop of Dodge City on Dec. 24, 1959, and ordained to the episcopacy March 24, 1960. He was installed April 5, 1960, at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Dodge City by Archbishop Edward J. Hunkeler.

Bishop Forst represented the Diocese of Dodge City in all four sessions of the Second Vatican Council. During his bishopric (1960-76) many new ministries were initiated. Through his efforts Our Lady of Guadalupe was named patroness of the diocese. Upon his resignation, he became auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas. He retired in 1986, and in 1995 was given the title of titular bishop of Leavenworth.

Bishop Forst died June 2, 2007, at Olathe Medical Center. He was 96. Archbishop Joseph Naumann was the main celebrant at the funeral Mass in the chapel of Savior Pastoral Center in Kansas City, Kans. Bishop Gilmore was the homilist. Bishop Schlarman also concelebrated. Burial was in Gate of Heaven Cemetery in Kansas City, Kans.