

April 11, 1953

Father Bernard Garmann



Father Garmann was born June 7, 1866 in Halverde, Westphalia, Germany. He moved to the United States as a young man. He was ordained May 15, 1909, for the Wichita diocese by the Most Rev. Denis O'Donaghue, bishop of Indianapolis, at St. Mary's Church, New Albany, Ind.

After serving at St. Mary's Cathedral in Wichita as an assistant for a month, Father Garmann was named chaplain at the Dominican Convent in Great Bend. He served in this assignment from June, 1909, until February, 1910.

In another relatively short assignment, Father Garmann served as assistant pastor at St. Mary's, Newton, from February to November of 1910.

Father Garmann received his first and only assignment as a pastor on Nov. 16, 1910. He served 32 of his 33 active years in the priesthood at St. Louis, Waterloo, with St. Rose, Mt. Vernon, as a mission. He built a convent for the teaching Sisters (1913) and a new school (1924). He also baptized Eugene Gerber and predicted he would someday be a priest.

He retired on July 10, 1942, and lived at St. Francis Hospital in Wichita for 11 years. He spent his last years in prayer. Approximately half of the time he was confined to his bed. On other occasions he divided his time between the chapel and his room. He died April 11, 1953, at the age of 86.

A requiem Mass was offered in the St. Francis chapel before his remains were removed to Waterloo. Bishop Carroll celebrated the funeral Mass April 14, 1953, at St. Louis Church. Burial was in the parish cemetery.