

**October 18, 1998**

**Msgr. Joseph Gerstenkorn**



Msgr. Gerstenkorn was born Jan. 29, 1907, at Redwing. He attended Holy Family School in Odin. He took his seminary studies at St. Lawrence Seminary, Mount Calvary, Wisc., and Kenrick Seminary in St. Louis. He was ordained May 26, 1934 by Bishop Schwertner at St. Mary's Cathedral in Wichita.

His first assignment was assistant pastor at St. Patrick's, Parsons (1934-37).

He served in six pastorates: St. Joseph, Offerle, with St. Mary, Hodgeman County (1937-48); St. Joseph, Conway Springs (1948-50); Christ the King, Wichita (1950-59), St. Francis of Assisi, Wichita (1959-67), St. Vincent de Paul, Andover (1967-75), and St. Mary's, Aleppo (1975-84). He retired in 1984.

On Feb. 4, 1939, during his first pastorate, a fire caused by a faulty furnace, destroyed the interior of the brick church at Offerle. It was remodeled within the same year.

Msgr. Gerstenkorn developed a reputation as a building priest. He started the school at Hodgeman County (1943); built a new school at Offerle (1945), and a new rectory at Conway Springs (1950).

He was elevated to the rank of papal chamberlain by Pope Pius XII in 1957.

Msgr. Gerstenkorn was the founding pastor for two Wichita parishes: Christ the King and St. Francis of Assisi, where he built the parish plants.

He was a resident at the Priest Retirement Center when he died at the age of 91 on Oct. 18, 1998. Bishop Gerber celebrated the funeral at Christ the King Church. Burial was at Resurrection Cemetery in Wichita.